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Bruni shared tales of his time in college and spoke to the value of a liberal arts education in his speech in Wilson Hall last Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Bruni Gets Frank About College Life

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

New York Times op-ed columnist Frank Bruni spoke to a packed Wilson Hall about identity politics and the meaning of a liberal education last week. The community conversation was brought to campus by the Vermont Humanities Council and followed the question-based format designed by the college's Engaged Listening Project.

Bruni was introduced by Sarah Stroup, associate professor of political science and faculty director of the Engaged Listening Project. The Engaged Listening project began this year with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It aims to promote productive disagreements in academic settings and reformat talks in a way that facilitates audience involvement and deepens audience engagement.

"We hope to hear from many members of the community about the new format," Stroup said in an interview after Bruni's lecture. "Anecdotally, many people have told me they enjoyed the discussion with their neighbors. I have also heard about a lot of vigorous discussion of the merit of Bruni's arguments, and that's good — a valuable campus talk is one that prompts continued conversation."

Middlebury students may recognize Bruni from his columns about free speech and safe spaces following the 2017 protests of Charles Murray. Bruni, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Columbia University School of Journalism, has also covered topics ranging from food to politics since starting at the Times in 1995. He began publishing biweekly opinion columns on politics, social issues, education and culture in 2011 and is the author and co-author of several books.

Bruni began his lecture by addressing the students in attendance, describing college as a time of immense personal change.

"I hope you use these years to become a bigger person rather than a smaller one, and to become a broader person rather than a narrower one," he said. He then urged everyone present, no matter their age, to push back, ideologically, against a world that is "constantly trying to narrow us."

Bruni continued by discussing the internet and social media, saying that these things meant to expand the world actually "trap us in sameness, giving us not diverse experiences, but versions of the same experience over and over again." Most people only follow sources that echo their own perspectives, he said, which eliminates nuance and "lets us basically marinate in our own convictions." On many social media platforms, for example, the more a user interacts with a particular topic or viewpoint, the more they see it recommended to them.

At Middlebury, students "encounter unfamiliar terrain and new perspectives," Bruni said, "and the whole point of being here is to venture across that terrain and to explore it." While colleges owe students physical safety and equal opportunity, it is a disservice, he said, to provide — or attempt to provide — students with an emotionally or ideologically safe environment. Rather, he argued, colleges should aim to promote intellectual strength over ideological security.

"Never," Bruni said, "should students be given the idea that it's

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External Reviewers Assess Impact of Commons System

By JAMES FINN AND SABINE POUX
News Editors

An external review committee has released a report evaluating the commons system and delineating areas of potential improvement as a continuation of the college's "How We Will Live Together" residential life assessment. The committee, which published the report earlier this month, included staff from Connecticut College, Kenyon College, Rice University and Carleton College, and based its analysis on observations from a visit to campus last October.

The committee's suggestions address the shortcomings of the commons system, many of which were noted in the "How We Will Live Together" self-study report last September. The September report outlined data collected by an internal steering committee of students, staff and faculty from the college and was later shared with the external review committee.

In their analysis, the external committee attributed many of the programs' failings to financial constraints that severely limited the implementation of certain "Cornerstones" of the commons system in the late nineties. "The consequences of these compromises have played out over the past two decades," the committee reported. "Leading to the conclusions of the Self-Study, the Terhune report, and those set forth in this report that question the value of continuing the program as it is currently designed."

After laying out these concerns, the report identified the strengths of the commons system as it exists today, namely the presence of commons deans, First-Year Seminars, commons residence directors (CRDs), faculty heads and regular commons "family" dinners. It pinpointed the commons deans in particular as "one of the greatest strengths of the commons." The deans, according the report, have become a "central locus of support for students over their four years at Middlebury."

The report then notably recommended that the commons be redefined as a first-year program. "Creating a dedicated first-year experience program focused on high-touch and high-impact practices should increase students' sense of belonging at Middlebury, and reduce some of the tensions relat-

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Debate Club Sets Records at Championship in Cape Town

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

Five Middlebury debaters celebrated the new year seven hours ahead and thousands of miles away in Cape Town, South Africa at the largest debate competition in the world, the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC). Charlotte Massey '18, Nate Obbard '21, Amanda Werner '21, Quinn Boyle '21 and Van Barth '21 competed in two-person teams with Massey and Obbard placing 70th in the world, Werner and Boyle placing 224th and Barth serving as a judge. Massey and Obbard's performance was the best in Middlebury history.

Overall, the college team's performance was also a personal best. In order to make it to the highly competitive elimination rounds, teams needed to gather 17 points over the course of nine rounds; Middlebury finished with 16. One team reached what is known as a bubble round, where the four teams closest to breaking into the elimination round compete against each other for the last spot.

"Unfortunately they didn't win that last round, but just reaching that in itself is an accomplishment because it means that you're one of the most competitive teams, fighting for that last spot," Barth said.

Middlebury's debate team has been attending the WUDC for over half a decade. The competition hosts over 400 teams representing more than 90 countries. Teams of two follow a British Parliamentary format, and have

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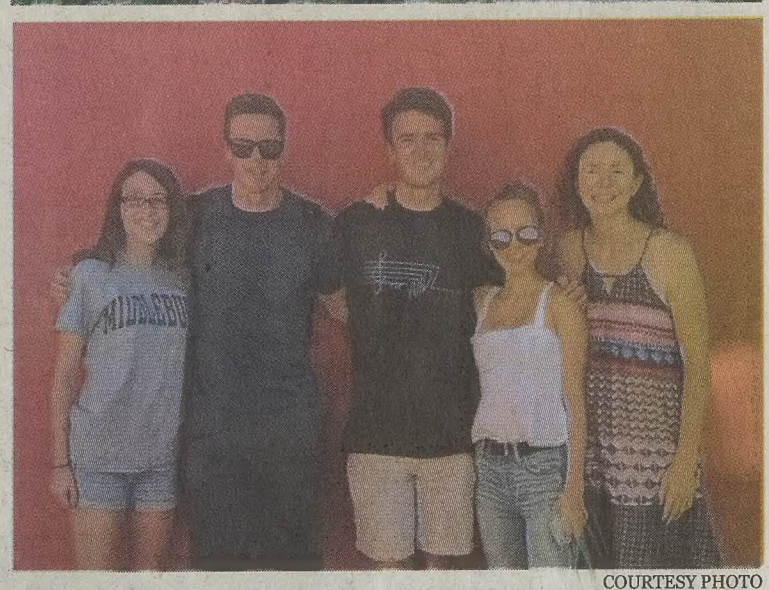

COURTESY PHOTO

The debaters had the chance to explore Cape Town during their visit.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Admissions Dean to Leave at Year's End

By HANNAH BENSEN
Staff Writer

Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles will leave his position at the end of the academic years. After seven years in his current role, he will become dean of enrollment management at the Lawrenceville School, a private boarding and day school for students grades 9-12 in central New Jersey.

"Greg is a valued colleague who has brought great clarity, integrity, and energy to his work," President Laurie L. Patton wrote in a campus-wide email. "During his time here, he has been a champion of diversifying the College's student body, maintaining our need-blind admissions policy, and expanding our relationship with the Posse Foundation."

Before coming to Middlebury in 2008, Buckles served as director of admissions at Kenyon College. He graduated from Denison University and holds a Master of Arts in literature from Trinity College in Connecticut. Prior to his work in higher education, Buckles held administrative positions for several years at private boarding schools.

During his time in Vermont, Buckles worked to bring a subjective outlook to the admissions process that looked beyond test scores and grade point averages.

"An overarching goal of admissions at Middlebury is to not be able to answer the question, 'What is a typical Middlebury student like?' " Buckles said in a video about college admissions made by the Communications Office in 2011. "While our averages our quite high and we are selective, and we ask for and expect a very

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No Class on MLK Day for First Time

By PORTER BOWMAN
Staff Writer

Middlebury students will have Martin Luther King Jr. Day off for the first time in college history this Monday, Jan. 21. The holiday, traditionally observed by most schools and many places of work, has been a class day for Middlebury students since President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983.

The change to the calendar was made to allow more students to participate in celebrations surrounding the holiday. In years past, the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has held events the weekend prior to the day itself. This year, the CCE will host an MLK Afternoon of Action on Monday.

According to CCE Program Director Ashley Laux, the CCE is soliciting volunteers to help with the event. In the Ilsley Library Meeting Room, volunteers will read books to and participate in arts and crafts activities with young children from the town. At the Addison Central Teen Center, volunteers will help with a collage art project and talk to local teenagers about mobilizing for change in one's own community. Volunteers will start at 1 p.m. while youth in the community can come to the event between 2:30 and 4 p.m. Laux and the CCE

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Middlebury firefighters honored for bravery
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An auction for the animals
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Politics luncheon invites former governors
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SPORTS

Women's hockey powers through season
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NEWS IN BRIEF

By CAMPUS STAFF

PRESIDENT MAKES NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

President Patton announced the transition of four administrators from interim roles to permanent positions in an email to the community on Dec. 19. Jeff Cason, Baishakhi Taylor, Steve Snyder and Carlos Velez have continued their duties in an official capacity since Jan. 1.

Jeff Cason, who is now executive vice president and provost, previously served as a faculty leader, vice president for academic affairs for the Language Schools and interim provost. In his provisional role, Cason collaborated with the Institute and led the Envisioning Middlebury initiative.

Baishakhi Taylor continues her previous work, now as the vice president for student affairs and dean of students. Taylor previously led the Community Council and helped direct the "How We Live Together" initiative, an assessment of the residential and commons system currently in progress.

Steve Snyder, dean of Language Schools, received an additional title of vice president for academic affairs for the language schools. In addition to his work with the Language Schools, Snyder will also serve on the School's Board of Overseers.

Carlos Velez has become dean of international programs. In this capacity, he oversees the Schools Abroad, the Study Abroad Program and International Student and Scholar Services. Previously a faculty member in the Psychology department, Velez began his administrative career serving in faculty leadership positions.

- Bochu Ding

ATWATER CRD STEPS DOWN

Students in Atwater Commons were notified last Thursday that the Atwater Common Residence Director (CRD), Doug Desrochers, is resigning his role. Desrochers' last day at Middlebury will be Jan. 21.

Desrochers resumed his role of CRD at Middlebury last Fall with the creation of the position. In his email to Atwater students, Desrochers thanked students for the opportunity to serve as a CRD and all the positive memories he will have of his time in the role.

While acknowledging the immense stress that can be prevalent at Middlebury, Desrochers encouraged students to fight this standard. "No, Middlebury won't turn into an amusement park overnight, but changing the culture not only starts with you - it is you," he advised students in his email. "Appreciate the little things that make this community really special."

Desrochers was known for greeting students while strolling campus with his dog, Fesik, chatting with residents in the Allen common room and taking the time to build relationships with students on an individual level.

It is not yet known whether the role of Atwater CRD will be filled after Desrochers's departure next week. However, if someone does fill the position, Desrochers encouraged students to treat the replacement with respect.

- Cali Kapp

WORK ON MCCULLOUGH MURAL EXPANDS

Students received a campus-wide email last Tuesday from David Kloepfer, Assistant Director of Programming & Events for Student Activities, announcing the expansion of the community mural in the McCullough Student Center. The mural was started last spring when four professional artists collaborated with students to transform the walls near the mailroom and box office.

This year's workshop is a continuation of the work initiated by Jennifer Herrera Condry, associate director of the Anderson Freeman Resource Center, along with her husband, Will Kasso Condry, one of the artists involved.

The project will continue on Sunday, Jan. 13 with a workshop led by Dr. Meagan Corrado. Corrado is a clinical social worker and mosaic artist.

"Participants will reflect on their past experiences, process current experiences, and identify their future vision," the email explained. The workshop will culminate with students generating a small piece, either written or visual, representing their experiences and identities.

The student's pieces will then be used by Kasso Condry, a community muralist and educator, as well as Isaias Crow, an international muralist, both as inspiration and collaged into design for a 40-foot mural. Students will have opportunities to assist the artists throughout the process.

"The continuation of the McCullough Mural Project is to further deepen student expression on campus and community connection," Kloepfer explained in the email.

- Cali Kapp

COURTESY PHOTO

The Middlebury teams placed 70 and 224 out of over 400 at the WUDC.

Debate Excels on Big Stage

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15 minutes to come up with an argument on topics ranging from economics to religion to sports to ethics.

Students are selected to attend WUDC based on a try-out at the start of the semester. Four of the five debaters chosen for the championship were sophomores.

"At the beginning of each semester we debate each other and then we have a third-party person, who is not affiliated with our school and who knows debate, watch the round and rank us," Werner explained. "Whoever had been given the ranking of first gets to choose whether or not they want to go and so on."

The team's coaches, who were chosen to judge at the competition, expressed pride in the debaters that attended WUDC.

"I am very proud of how much growth there has been from all team members," coach Patricia Johnson-Castle said.

"The team really supported each other the whole trip — in and out of rounds," coach Alexandra Sundarsingh said. "It was nice to see everyone have as much fun as they had hard work,".

Alongside their competitive successes, the five students were able to participate in an incredible global experience. One of the most striking aspects of the event for most of the team was how different debate styles from different parts of the world were, especially since the Middlebury team often encounters the same people at tournaments around the northeast.

"People came from so many different backgrounds; they had entirely new perspectives to offer to the debate that perhaps we had never trained with or thought about," Werner said. "It was really interesting to interact with all those different perspectives."

"It was the most international group I'd ever seen," Barth echoed. "To be able to judge all these people, since they all brought their different perspectives to the debate, was amazing."

Obbard noted that it was somewhat frustrating to adapt to different styles of judges and competitors, but that it was also a valuable experience.

"It's good to get out of the bubble where you walk into a room and think 'I know this judge,'" Obard said. "It's better to have strangers from all over the place who aren't going to have U.S.-specific knowledge of the same examples that you do."

The team also had four days outside of the competition to explore Cape Town. Some of them chose to take a 4 a.m. sunrise hike through the mountains overlooking the city.

"It was very strenuous, but then we got to watch the sun rise from behind the mountains and over the city and it was so beautiful," Werner said. "It was at that moment that I realized how lucky and grateful I was to be there and do the activity that I love but also have time to explore the city."

Bruni Talks Free Speech and Liberal Arts in Wilson Hall

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okay to flee from, or wall out, arguments that are provocative, ideas that are uncomfortable, viewpoints that offend."

Bruni spoke about his own experience as a gay college student in the 1980s, his determination to be open about his sexuality, his fear of coming out to his devout Christian roommate and his roommate's unexpected acceptance of his identity. Both Bruni and his roommate grew intellectually from their situation, but Bruni questioned the likelihood of such a scenario occurring today, with colleges' emphasis on safe spaces.

"There's a difference," he said, "between banding together and interpreting and talking about the world only through the lens of one's race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity. There's a difference between banding together and admonishing outsiders that they can never understand you."

After an audience member asked him to elaborate on this idea, Bruni said that he believes it is possible, and important, for people outside of a group to relate to that group's experience without taking the spotlight away.

Bruni emphasized the benefits of associating with people who are different than he is and described working relationships he maintains with people who are his ideological opposites. Hearing different ideas, he said, is the most likely means of moving, as a group, in a positive direction.

In response to audience questions, Bruni clarified that he does not see free speech as absolute. He said there is no clear line dividing what is and is not acceptable.

On the evening of his talk, Bruni ate dinner in Ross Dining Hall with a group of faculty, students and staff. The following morning, he answered questions about his writing techniques during a breakfast with Professor of the Practice Susan Greenberg's Opinion Writing class, then met with Professor Jennifer Ortegren's Religion and Food class to speak about his experience with cookbook writing.

"We were fortunate enough to have a private breakfast with Mr. Bruni," Greenberg said. "We had a candid discussion about the process of writing op-eds, where the ideas come from, how to articulate and organize them and what happens when things go wrong."

During the breakfast, Bruni suggested that students at left-leaning schools like Middlebury consciously construct a balanced "media diet" for themselves, incorporating news from all points of view in order to experience ideological opposition and develop more nuanced, tenable perspectives.

REID SMITH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Bruni's talk ended with a question and answer section.

MLK Day Observed for First Time

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team will be coordinating with AmeriCorps VISTA member Sarah Litwiller to organize the event, and encourage interested students to sign up at go.middlebury.edu/mlkafternoonofaction.

Although students will have classes off this year, Laux expects that event turnout will be comparable to last year's.

Ricardo Lint Sagarena, director of intercultural programs, is also organizing a brunch at 10 a.m. on the 21st in the Redfield Proctor Room in Proctor Dining Hall.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words and selfless actions continue to be an inspiration and never-ending call to action for tolerance and peace," Sagarena said. "In that spirit, students, faculty, and staff are invited to come together to share a meal and talk about their commitments and convictions." He advised interested students to register for seats at go.middlebury.edu/mlkbrunch.

Sagarena is unsure about how the day off will impact participation, as it is yet to be seen whether students will take the day off to attend these events.

Buckles Leaving for Job at Lawrenceville

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rigorous background, we are also interested in more subjective and tangible qualities. A sense of self awareness, we think, is important, mainly to take advantage of what Middlebury has to offer."

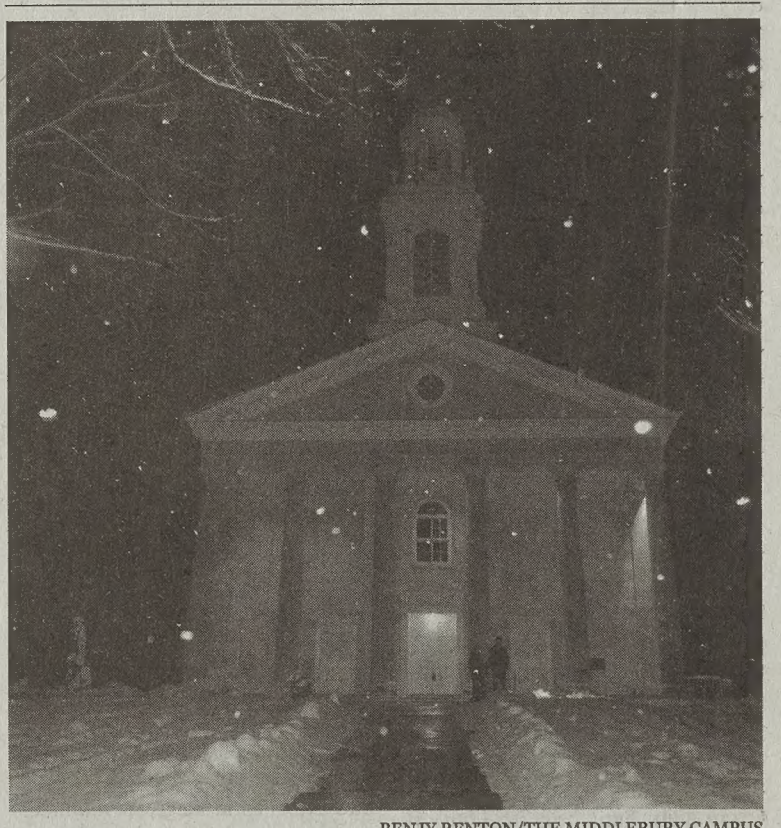
Buckles also emphasized Middlebury's commitment to admitting a diverse student body.

"We want the student body at Middlebury to be a reflection of the global stage," Buckles said. "We are defining diversity in lots of different ways. Certainly we are interested and very committed to racial diversity, we are interested in socioeconomic diversity ... first generation students, students who come from a variety of different backgrounds."

Buckles is also an outdoor enthusiast, and enjoys cycling and skiing in Vermont.

"Greg's enduring contribution to Middlebury will be the thousands of exceptional students he and his team have admitted over the years," Patton said in her email.

Buckles was not available for comment.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Flurries cover the campus in snow after two days of blizzardy weather last week.

"How We Will Live Together" External Review Evaluates Commons System

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ed to diversity and inclusion that we heard about during our visit to campus," the committee said. It noted that students feel connected to their commons during their first years at the college but not in the years following, and suggested redistributing first-year housing to be more centralized, among other changes.

The report also suggested enhancing faculty engagement in the programs, and proposed separating the commons heads from their commons. "The current connection confines the role," the report said, "Limiting its impact while resulting in large expenses for many dinners with first-year seminars that students do not perceive to be connected to their commons experience and produces minimal sustained faculty-student connection." Instead, it recommended using the heads to host more community events and foster out-of-classroom discussions through events, teach-ins and gatherings.

The main part of the report ended with seven suggestions for improving the programs more generally, including co-locating Febs into one shared residential space and revising the commons dean structure.

In the conclusion, the committee restated its recommendation for the commons to be a first-year program.

"Middlebury has a tremendous opportunity in the coming years to adapt key aspects of the commons system to develop a signature first-year program that best supports student and distinguishes the college from its peers," the committee reported. "The proposed changes also maximize the impact of the financial and human resources dedicated to supporting students' experiences outside of the classroom."

According to co-chair of the How We Will Live Together Steering Committee and Senior Associate Dean of Students Derek Doucet, the initiative's Steering and Advisory committees will draft a list of possible recommendations informed by the external review, their own self-study, and feedback on the external review from the Community Council, Student Government Association (SGA) and commons staff and faculty teams. Discussions have already begun, and Doucet hopes the draft will be completed by the end of the winter term.

Doucet also stressed that the final product will rely heavily on feedback from the community.

"When we have what feels like a solid draft of possible recommendations, we plan, in collaboration with the Community Council and SGA, to make them broadly available to the community for comment," he said. "This final opportunity for community input feels critical, and is consistent with the approach we've taken all along in this process."

The committees are already soliciting feedback for the other parts of the process on the How We Will Live Together webpage, which students can find at go.middlebury.edu/commonsreview.

Ultimately, the committee will refine the list of recommendations and submit them to Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor, which Doucet hopes will occur early in the spring term. According to Doucet, Taylor and the rest of the Senior Leadership Group will decide which, if any, of the recommendations to implement.

While the reassessment process is only partly underway, there seems to be a sense of optimism and excitement about the road ahead.

"There's a lot of work ahead before any decisions can be made and it's too early to predict what the future direction might be," said Bill Burger, vice president for communications. "But I'm confident these questions will get a lot of attention this spring as Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor and others in the administration focus on the How We Live Together initiative that started last year."

With New Grant Funds, the Open Door Clinic Looks to the Future

By NICOLE POLLACK
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY - Inside a beige trailer behind Porter Medical Center, the Open Door Clinic (ODC) in Middlebury, one of nine providers of healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured in Vermont, holds free clinics every Tuesday evening and one Friday morning per month. Photos of staff members and dozens of smiling volunteers are tacked to a bulletin board on one side of the entryway, across from rows of fliers and brochures lining the opposite wall, offering everything from bus schedules to counseling services.

When the ODC established its volunteer database in 2004, it had just 15 volunteers. In 2018, with the help of 148 volunteer interpreters, EMTs and administrative assistants, including 34 Middlebury College students, three college employees, four current professors and two retired professors, the ODC provided care to 889 patients. The Middlebury and Vergennes clinics are run almost entirely by volunteers.

"If you spend more than 10 percent of your annual gross income on your health insurance premium, then we consider you to be underinsured, and you may qualify to be seen by us," said Heidi Sulis, executive director of the ODC.

A grant the ODC received in 2013 required that it open its doors to any community member, free of charge, and it continues to honor that commitment. The ODC prioritizes case management, ensuring patient access to specialists, and helps those who don't qualify for its services find insurance coverage — Sulis described the ODC as a temporary stop on the path to a permanent medical care home.

The ODC has received three $20,000 "Vermont Economic Justice" grants from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, in 2015, 2016 and 2018. The money allowed staff to pursue projects beyond the normal scope of the clinics, from improving community outreach to biannual training for volunteers interested in interpreting for mental health appointments. A $15,000 grant from the Walter Cerf Community Fund will facilitate expansion of the dental program developed by the ODC over the last few years. It also funds a new staff position associated with the dental program, now held by Paola Meza, a senior at Middlebury College.

"I started during my first semester on campus," Meza said. "I started interpreting, and I've been doing that ever since." Initially, she volunteered for a few hours each month, but she is now a part-time member of the ODC staff and works there nearly every day. Meza, who worked 84 hours at the ODC in 2018, plans to stay on in a similar role after graduating.

Thirty-five percent of the ODC's patients are migrant farmworkers without access to insurance. "Migrant workers who work in the dairy industry do not have a legal means by which to get into our country," Sulis said. Migrant dairy workers often pay into social security and other government programs, but can't receive benefits. With support from a federal HRSA grant, intended to improve healthcare access for vulnerable communities, the ODC gives migrant workers access to family doctors, physical therapists, dieticians, dentists and dental hygienists. Healthcare providers visited 32 farms, vaccinating about 300 workers, in 2018.

"I can't imagine what it's like to navigate a state like Vermont without knowing the language at all, or being afraid of things like deportation," Meza said.

Until 2014, the ODC provided rides to the clinic for migrant workers, but helped the migrant workers find alternative means of transportation when the practice became unmanageable.

"When we stopped doing it, we were able to look for other fields where we would like to invest," said Christiane Kokubo, the ODC communication specialist. "It allowed us to think in other directions."

> ***"Our volunteers understand the challenges of our current healthcare system..."***

At the time, many local residents didn't know about the clinics, so the ODC staff focused on raising awareness and strengthening their brand. Migrant workers attend clinics most frequently, but the other 65 percent of the ODC's patients live in Addison County and other parts of Vermont and New York. Regular volunteers come from as far as Burlington.

"I think our volunteers understand the challenges of our current health-care system, and understand that health insurance is exceedingly expensive and is a real barrier to care for people," Sulis said. Volunteers "don't have judgment about people not having insurance and having

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

College Park, one of the possible locations for the farmers' market.

Middlebury's Farmers' Market Considers Relocation to College Park

By LUCY TOWNEND
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY - The Middlebury Farmers' Market (MFM), currently located at the Middlebury Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7823 at 530 Exchange St., hopes to continue to attract shoppers despite road work and location changes.

The market resided at the Marble Works Shopping Complex for 10 years before moving to its current home in 2017 due to concerns about the preservation of newly greenscaped areas next to Otter Creek. While the farmers' market is not actively looking for a new location, Hannah Sessions, owner of Blue Ridge Farms and an MFM board member, believes that this location could provide optimal conditions for the market. She told The Campus that Marble Works "is a wonderful location for a market, as it met all of our requirements and was walkable to downtown and the college."

And yet, Sessions acknowledged that the Exchange Street location has been suitable because of its parking spaces, access to bathrooms and convenience for vendors and shoppers. A new sidewalk for the lot is to be completed in 2019, and the farmers' market is looking into coordinating a shuttle to the location. The use of an indoor space in the same area allows the farmers' market to open on most Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from December to April.

Despite the use of an indoor market, vendor participation has been declining, mainly due to competition from cooperatives and the Community-Supported Agriculture system in Vermont. This could prompt a move in the future. In the meantime, the farmers' market in Middlebury has several plans to try to combat this decline, including keeping table fees affordable and working on successful promotion of the market. Sessions also explained that they are considering amending their "brick-and-mortar rule," which discourages businesses with retail locations from selling at the market. There is also a discount rate for businesses who sell at every market, and using shorter hours than other markets allows for vendors to have the afternoon free.

"It was fun all summer to hear the various languages from the Language Schools," Sessions explained, "and in the fall we saw a lot of students and families filter through."

She also noted that in the Marble Works location, the tents were easily visible from the Main Street Bridge and were accessible from the Frog Hollow Mill area. Using a grant from the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, the farmers' market conducted a survey and found that many vendors who commented on location preferred a spot downtown.

Several locations may be considered in the future, including Triangle Park, College Park (across from Shafer's), and the area outside of Twilight Hall. When asked about College Park, Vice President for Communications Bill Burger said that the college was open to talks about using the space, but claimed that "the park presents certain challenges as a location" and that "the community should find a location that best meets the needs of the market, the vendors and the community members who shop there."

Sessions listed criteria for a potential location that must be taken into account, including "flat, ample space for our vendors (each needing a 10' x 10' space, a few larger vendors 10' x 20')" and "flat and walkable space for our customers (15' minimum walking aisle)." Other considerations include space for parking, electricity access for a band and for vendors, and the ability for certain vendors to work out of their vehicles. Several proposed locations may struggle to meet these requirements. The town of Middlebury is working on a renovation of Triangle Park that may include features making it more conducive to the farmers' market.

Sessions emphasized the importance of a farmers' market to the town of Middlebury. Currently, MFM has over 50 vendors and meets on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the summer in addition to their winter market. Products include vegetables, meats, flowers and dairy products, in addition to jewelry, artwork and other crafts.

"The thing about farmers' markets that I feel passionate about is that they truly are small-business incubators," Sessions said. Farmers' markets provide valuable business experiences, jump-starting initial revenue streams. This retail and cash flow makes it easier for fledgling businesses to apply for loans, allowing local businesses to grow.

Middlebury student Hannah Gellert '21 echoed Sessions' statement, claiming that "farmers' markets are great for supporting local communities" and are "an integral part of bolstering local food production." When asked if Gellert would attend the market more often if it was in a downtown location, she said, "Yes, one hundred percent. It is the main reason why I don't visit it every time."

JOHN FOWERS

Firefighters Pat Shaw (left) and Paul Garrow (right).

Middlebury Firefighters Garrow, Shaw Receive Medals of Valor

By JOHN FLOWERS
Addison Independent Reporter

MIDDLEBURY — The incident happened two years ago, but the memories of it are indelibly seared in the memory banks of both Paul Garrow and Pat Shaw.

The two veteran Middlebury firefighters and 31 of their colleagues had gathered at their Seymour Street headquarters on Dec. 4, 2016, for an evening of training, food and conversation.

Their training was interrupted at 7:40 p.m. for the real thing: A report of a structure fire at 7 Murdock Court. And to make matters worse, someone was trapped in the structure.

"The room rapidly emptied, as every member was aware of the severity of the call," Middlebury Fire Chief Dave Shaw noted in his account of the incident. "We were talking about the potential loss of life."

Pat Shaw, the assistant chief, and then-captain Paul Garrow were among the first on the scene. They had learned that 95-year-old Robert Kellogg was trapped inside the home, which at this point was fully involved in flames.

Knowing that time was of the essence, Shaw and Garrow tied off a safety rope and entered the blazing building through a rear door.

The two men crawled on their hands and knees through a dark, smoky oven. They hollered, hoping Kellogg would hear them and lead them in his direction. They felt around with their hands, as flashlights were of no use in the murky melting pot.

Fire was spitting out of every room; instinct and training taught them to close as many doors as they could to retard the fire and reduce personal risk.

"Your senses get heightened," Shaw said.

"It's survival."

They entered the kitchen area, which by this point had reached a temperature so hot that it could melt the shield off a firefighter's helmet, according to Shaw. They continued to feel their way around, without luck, until the heat — which at this point was melting a kitchen window — required them to exit the cauldron or die.

"We rolled out the door together," Garrow recalled, noting rescuers might have had to look for three bodies instead of one had they not exited when they did.

They took a quick breather and re-entered the building, this time with a fire hose that allowed them to tamp down the heat and flames.

Kellogg was found lying on the kitchen floor, only 15 feet from where Garrow and Shaw had to retreat from their first rescue attempt.

They quickly pulled Kellogg out, but it was unfortunately too late; he had succumbed to the horrific conditions inside.

It's an experience that left the two firefighters rattled, and disappointed with the culmination of their efforts.

"That's the sad part about all this," Shaw said. "Somebody lost a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather. I almost feel like a failure for not being able to save him. I often ask myself, 'If only we were a little quicker, if the fire hadn't chased us out of the house.' That's what pissed me off so much. That the fire chased us out of there."

While Shaw and Garrow insist they were "just doing their job" on that fateful day, their colleagues and community believe they deserve special recognition — the highest, in fact, that the department can give. The two men were recently presented with medals of valor.

They are now part of an exclusive group. They're two of only three firefighters to ever receive Middlebury's medal of valor. The first and only other recipient was Dave Broughton, who earned the supreme citation in 1992 for his actions during a Monroe Street blaze. Like Shaw and Garrow, Broughton — at great personal risk — went into a burning home and rescued a woman trapped inside. Broughton continues to serve on the Middlebury force.

Both firefighters said they're honored to receive the department's highest commendation. But they stressed they're not serving the public with the expectation of accolades.

"In those situations, you put your life on the line for another person," Shaw said.

"It's part of the job," he said.

Paul Garrow was 19 when he joined the Middlebury Fire Department (MVFD) in February 1990. It was ironically Broughton who recruited him.

> ***"In those situations, you put your life on the line for another person."***

Not that it was a hard sell. Garrow's dad, Leo, was a firefighter in Warren at the time. So Paul had a good idea about the intensive training, hard work and erratic hours that awaited him.

"It takes a lot to be an officer here," said a proud Garrow, who served a stint as captain.

Pat Shaw joined the MVFD in in 1982, at the age of 18. For him, it was destiny. His grandfather became a member of the department back in the 1930, and his dad followed suit. He'd seen some of his brothers stand in line to perpetuate the family firefighting legacy.

"It's a way to help the community, to give back," Shaw said of his main reason for joining.

It was also for the challenge.

"You never know what's going to get thrown at you," he said.

Shaw moved to New Haven around five years after beginning his firefighting career. So he served the New Haven Fire Department until his return to Middlebury in 2005. He's been assistant chief for the MVFD for the past four years.

Garrow said becoming a firefighter is akin to inheriting new brothers and sisters.

"Everyone in this department is family, one way or another," Garrow said, "whether they're blood, or just having known each other for more than 30 years."

Both men's family trees might as well be made of fire-truck extension ladders.

Shaw's brother is his fire chief, from whom he received his medal. His son is a full-time firefighter in Barre City.

Garrow's son Randy is a fellow Middlebury firefighter.

They've each got nephews poised to join the ranks.

"Do we fight like family? You bet," Shaw said with a smile. "But when the chips are down and the stuff is hitting the fan, I'll tell you what..."

And the collaboration and selflessness extends beyond firefighting. If a brother or sister needs help with a moving or building project, a handful (at least) of members show up to lend support.

When Garrow built a new home in Cornwall recently, none other than Chief Dave Shaw was crawling around in the trusses with a hammer.

"It's that simple; we're all that close," Garrow said.

Pat Shaw and Garrow have been friends and fire-department brothers for so long, they finish each other's sentences.

"I'd do it again..." Shaw said of the act of running into a burning home, "... and hopefully next time with a better outcome," Garrow added.

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Pawing for Purrrses: Handbags to be Auctioned off to Support Humane Society

By ARIADNE WILL
Contributing Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Bags for auction at the Humane Society.

BURLINGTON — The fifth annual Purrrses for Paws event is set to take place on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Burlington International Airport. Hosted by the Humane Society of Chittenden County (HSCC), the event aims to raise funds for their animal shelter in South Burlington. New and 'like-new' purses, clutches and handbags will be auctioned off at the fundraiser, where ticket-holders can also purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win an emerald ring valued at $8,000. Tickets for the event are on sale for $30 and can be purchased through HSCC's website, chittendenhumane.org.

Powered by over 200 volunteers and a small staff, HSCC was founded in 1901 by June and Herb Davis and has grown tremendously since. Today, HSCC serves Chittenden and Grand Isle counties, taking in and caring for 974 animals in 2018. The Purrrses for Paws event has reflected the shelter's growth.

"Our first Purrrses for Paws raised around $18,000," said Erin Alamed, Director of Volunteer and Community Outreach at HSCC. "In the last two years we have raised between $40,000 and $50,000 at the event. It has grown significantly in the way we're executing the event, the event's location and the purse options, and we are honing in on what's working and what isn't."

As a nonprofit organization receiving no city, state or federal funding, HSCC depends entirely on donations from the community.

"We are constantly asking a lot from the community, and most of our donations come from one-on-one donor support," said Diana Hill, director of development for HSCC. "We have our annual campaign fund that is always requiring gifts, but we also have specific funds that we always want to keep full so that we can do everything we do, both here at the shelter and in the community."

Though a large percent of HSCC funds go toward veterinary bills, money is also needed to keep facilities in order and to provide food and other amenities for the shelter's animals. The impact of Purrrses for Paws extends beyond monetary support, however.

"The events we host spread the word about our mission to people attending, people who might not be familiar with what we do," Alamed said. "We try to incorporate an educational aspect into it and try to tie the event back to our mission."

Right now, that mission is the accessible education of animal treatment. "If we educate people early on, hopefully we will put ourselves out of business," said Alamed. "Hopefully we will soon turn into something different, but for now it's about education and figuring out the best way to care for animals."

The effects of this mission are seen in HSCC's army of volunteers. Carrie Prat, a self-proclaimed animal lover, began volunteering in May 2018 after she and her husband adopted two cats from the shelter.

"I felt like working full-time didn't allow me to express my volunteer self. I really wanted a consistent volunteering opportunity," said Prat. "I have had such a great experience adopting animals from HSCC, and I wanted to help out even more."

Volunteering in a facility that services 50 to 75 animals at any given time, Prat quickly observed the commitment of HSCC's volunteers and staff. "I have learned how dedicated the staff and volunteers are," she said. "Everyone works so hard to keep things going. It's a 365-day job; it's not something that ever stops."

The importance of volunteers is not exclusive to the shelter's daily runnings. Purrrses for Paws requires a massive volunteer effort as well.

"We don't have a large expense for these events," Alamed explained. "All of the people who will be working Purrrses for Paws are volunteers, except myself. We couldn't do events like these without our volunteers."

With the Feb. 7 event quickly approaching, the staff is busy planning the event and preparing the purses. "We have about 300 people come to bid on new and like-new purses," said Hill. "I just sat through my first purse processing meeting."

With excitement building as the date draws nearer, the shelter's staff and volunteers look forward to another interaction with the people who allow HSCC's goals to become reality. While preparing, however, the staff and volunteers at HSCC will continue to evolve their operation.

"Events have changed, staffing has changed, and [they] will continue to change over the next hundred and twenty years or so," said Alamed. "We are always learning new things about how to enrich our animals, the processes that are working for some organizations and not for others, demographics, animals we're taking in, adoption rates, all of that."

Meet the Open Door Clinic

Continued from Page 3

difficult lives, and are happy to help them."

"As a native Spanish speaker and as someone who is also from Mexico, which is where most of the migrant patients are from," Meza said, "I feel like I can connect to them, and I feel like I'm comfortable with the patient and the patient is comfortable with me. The fact that I can do this is a way for me to show support for this population."

Asked what the most difficult aspect of working at the ODC was, Meza said, "It's frustrating to see that it's 2019 and there are still so many people who don't have adequate health care."

In the future, along with expanding the dental program, ODC staff hope to streamline their volunteer manual and trainings, taking the print materials used by volunteers and patients to another level. With the funds from the Ben & Jerry's grant, they are also looking into a new video interpretation service.

"Not everyone here at the office speaks Spanish," Kokubo said. "If someone calls and there's not a Spanish speaker here, we have a system now that is not great, so we would try to get another company to do a conference call thing, interpreting through the phone."

Middlebury College students, particularly Spanish speakers, who are interested in volunteering with the Open Door Clinic can reach Christiane Kokubo at odc@opendoormidd.org.

'Stay-to-Stay' Brings Young Demographic to VT

By TAYLOR PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Vermont's population is among the oldest in the nation, coming in third in terms of median age, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This means fewer available laborers, more demands on social services and an uncertainty about the future of the state. The good news? The Vermont government is well aware of the problem and intends to focus on revitalizing the state.

"Expanding our workforce is one of the top priorities of my administration," Gov. Phil Scott said in March, "We must think outside the box ... to attract more working families and young professionals to Vermont."

Part of the solution to this problem is the legislature's Remote Worker Grant program, a highly publicized initiative that offers $10,000 to any young professional willing to relocate to Vermont and work remotely. The announcement of the grant program generated interest nationwide, and applications started rolling in on Jan. 1 of this year.

The Remote Worker Grant program is not the first program designed to lower the median age and build a bright future for the Green Mountain State. The Department of Tourism and Marketing is contributing to the efforts with their Stay-to-Stay program, which began in April 2018.

Thirteen million people visit Vermont each year — an astonishing number of tourists for such a small state. From quick ski getaways to hiking honeymoons, these visitors overwhelmingly love the state. Their appreciation of the gorgeous Green Mountains, local food and community-minded culture means that many of these tourists return year after year. The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM) is working to persuade those people to turn their vacations into residency.

"We asked ourselves: how do we use the tools we have to help with this problem facing the state?" said Nate Formalarie, communications director for the Department of Tourism and Marketing. "The Stay-to-Stay pilot is a great way to pool the resources of the state and local folks."

Stay-to-Stay began just last year as a pilot program. The initiative entices new residents by providing three days of whirlwind programming designed to showcase the best of Vermont and, ideally, to convince people that Vermont is the place for them.

"The hope is that people say, 'I don't just want to visit here, I want to live here,'" Formarlie explained.

While interested vacationers have to pay for their own travel and hotels, Vermonters organize everything else. On Friday night, participants in the program have a meet-and-greet opportunity to ask residents questions and introduce themselves to local employers, as well as to meet community organizers, members of the Chamber of Commerce and real estate agents. The cocktail-party-style gathering allows potential residents to get a feel for the area and to network.

Saturday and Sunday are set aside for the participants to explore the attractions of the region on their own, similar to a regular vacation. In Burlington, this can include a stroll down Church Street or a visit to Ben & Jerry's. Vermont Vacation identifies items of interest for the potential residents in each of the communities in the program. Participants can sightsee, meet with realtors to find houses, set up interviews with employers, and enjoy all that Vermont has to offer over the course of their weekend.

The three-day adventure ends on Monday morning with a meeting about relocation that focuses on the logistics of moving to Vermont and the opportunities such a move provides. By the end of these three days, future Vermonters have the opportunity to pick out a house, interview for a job and find friends in a new neighborhood.

The inventive use of Vermont's tourism draws has proved successful. Over the course of the four weekends organized by the VDTM last year, 140 people came to preview what life as a Vermonter looks like, and many of them fell in love with the incredible state.

"Seven of them have already moved, and 37 more are actively job searching and real-estate hunting to move within the next year," Formalarie said.

> ***"The hope is that people say, 'I don't want to just visit here, I want to live here.'"***

The qualitative response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. Sandra Hegedus traveled from Cleveland for a weekend in Brattleboro and told VTDigger that she loved Vermont.

"There's a progressive thought process and an acceptance of different kinds of people," Hegedus said. Comments like these were echoed by many of the participants in the pilot program, who complimented everything from the beautiful fall weather to the political climate. High on the list of Vermont's assets were maple creemees and the statewide community engagement with and commitment to environmentalism.

Positive reviews and the program's 32% success rate bode well for the future. 1,200 people expressed interest in the program last year, although the number of available weekends limited how many people actually attended. Next year, Stay-to-Stay will have 15 different weekends in Burlington, Brattleboro, Manchester, Rutland and Bennington. The increased number of available weekends means that Vermonters can expect new neighbors in the coming years. The success of Stay-to-Stay only confirms what many Vermonters already knew: all it takes is one weekend to fall in love with the Green Mountain State.

HOPE WORKS VERMONT

Runners at a HOPE Works charity event.

HOPE Works Sees Mass Resignation

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Staff Writer

A storm of internal controversy at the Burlington-based sexual assault help center HOPE Works led every employee and, as of Friday, Jan. 11, executive director Cathleen Barkley, to resign from the organization.

Despite concerns over the lack of resources, much of the community has come out in support of the eight former staff members of HOPE Works. The group has made its story public, sharing its frustrations on a collective Facebook page where it posted both the legally filed formal grievance that preceded its strike and, on Friday, Jan. 4, its resignation announcement. Its Facebook page now has over 400 likes.

Within the announcement, the former staff expressed their sadness at having felt no other option but to leave. They also unapologetically renounced the actions of executive director Cathleen Barkley and the HOPE Works board. The posts alleged that these parties discriminated against gay, trans and minority staff members, made threats against employee organizing and repeatedly manipulated and emotionally abused their workers.

Also cited in their Sunday, Dec. 16 formal grievance were accounts of carelessness, gaslighting and policy breaches on the part of executive director Cathleen Barkley, all of which caused the team of eight to walk out. This group included three victim advocates, two clinical therapists and three educational and developmental workers, some of whom had been with HOPE Works for as long as 18 years.

HOPE Works had previously served approximately 75 Vermonters per month as Chittenden County's primary resource center for victims of sexual violence, and the organization's newfound lack of staff has left many concerned for assault survivors who may now struggle to access resources.

HOPE Works has been active in the Burlington area since 1973, providing victims of sexual violence with a 24-hour hotline, personal advocates, individual and group therapy and an online emergency chat line. Since the mass resignation of eight staff members on Jan. 4. following a three-week strike, however, HOPE Works has been forced to limit its services.

Mary Cronkite, a sexual assault survivor and medical assistant at a local health center, told VTDigger that there has been no known therapy, education or advocacy services from the organization since the staff went on strike. Although the hotline has remained open, incoming callers may now experience delays in service. Victims have been encouraged to consider seeking assistance from Voices Against Violence in Franklin County and WomenSafe in Addison County if HOPE Works is found to be unavailable.

Of the organization's leadership, the group claimed in its Jan. 4 Facebook post, "They have demonstrated that they have no intention — nor did they ever — of participating in this work with sincerity, empathy or integrity."

The post goes on to explain that several of the former employees are also survivors of sexual violence and that many of Barkley's actions have been triggering, adding, "We know that when we choose our safety we choose survivor safety."

The posts have received a shower of support from the community including messages of thanks, solidarity and job offers. The group has also created a GoFundMe to cover living and legal expenses for the affected staff, which has raised more than $19,000 in the last month.

According to VTDigger, the eight staff members first left HOPE Works after victim advocate Lucy Basa was allegedly fired for messages shared on her private Facebook account, in which she called the organization's leadership "comic book evil."

The messages, which were posted but have since been deleted from the group's Facebook page and are supported by the whole ex-staff, called for her fellow employees to organize against the board's proposal of selling the HOPE Works lawn and green space to real-estate developer Eric Farrell. Basa explained in the messages that these outdoor areas were often used for therapy purposes. Her firing was considered the last straw for the rest of the former employees, who went on strike shortly thereafter, requiring that HOPE Works both reinstate Basa and terminate Barkley in order for them to return.

Former employee Jas Wheeler explained to The Campus that there were also internal struggles over how much emphasis to place on HOPE Works' dedication to serving marginalized victims. The employees' prioritization of intersectionality allegedly clashed sharply with the leadership's reluctance to take an outspoken stance.

"We found ourselves consistently blocked by our leadership when we tried to institute change," Wheeler said. This divide is evidenced in the group's formal grievance, which, among other incidents, cites that Cathleen Barkley barred the staff from posting support for the Black Lives Matter movement on HOPE Works' now-deactivated social media accounts, which the staff vehemently disagreed with.

Wheeler said, "Retaliation for this work is what pushed us to strike. Dismissal of this work is what pushed us to resign. Commitment to this work is what pushes us into our future as advocates," said Wheeler of the staff's efforts to expand inclusion. Wheeler went on to express the staff's ongoing dedication to helping sexual assault victims and their need for the organization to restructure its approaches toward such issues.

One of the group's main demands during the strike — the removal of Cathleen Barkley — came to fruition as of Jan. 11, when HOPE Works announced Barkley's resignation, though she will continue work for the time being. In a statement, the former staff renounced Barkley's continued attachment to the organization and the lack of further progress from the board, stating, "Cathleen's leadership was one part of the problem. HOPE Works continues to be an unsafe place to work until the Board intensely and permanently transforms."

The eight former employees announced that they would meet with the board on Tuesday, Jan. 15 to discuss the future of the organization, though they claim that they are still unsure of what the future holds for them and have shown no sign of returning to the organization. For now, the group has shared that it is taking time to heal, and implores that the HOPE Works board make changes so that the brunt of the fallout no longer has to fall on Vermont's sexual assault survivors.

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Trump's Recklessness Only Grows

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

On Dec. 22, the government shut down because President Trump wants a wall. The longest shutdown in U.S. history is the apex of partisanship and the culmination of Trump's number one presidential campaign promise. But while we keep telling ourselves that this is not a normal time in our history, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue having the same visceral reactions of anger or sadness to each calamity that appears in the news. They happen so often.

Strangely enough, this is the first time we have chosen to editorialize directly about the president this year. What took us so long? One reason is that it feels impossible to choose between the different disasters. Is this shutdown any more or less outrageous than family separation at the border, or the government's failure to adequately respond to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico — neither of which we have addressed as a board?

It would be impractical for us to write about these outrages each week. Doing so would force us to ignore the on-campus issues that often feel even more immediate than what is happening in Washington. But it would be irresponsible to ignore them altogether. For several reasons, we find this shutdown too shameful to go un-covered, even by a student newspaper.

President Trump seems either ignorant or apathetic, or both, of U.S. interference in many of the South American countries that are currently sending many people to the U.S., including Honduras and Nicaragua. Trump is quick to take responsibility for creating the shutdown but not for the actions that created the crisis in the first place.

Despite Trump's "America First" rhetoric, the shutdown has furloughed 800,000 workers and caused government agencies and services that help his own supporters to stop operations.

The Environmental Protection Agency has furloughed 95 percent of its workforce, the Treasury department 85 percent, and even the Department of Homeland Security has furloughed over 30,000 workers. According to the U.S. Border Patrol, the number of border apprehensions is at its lowest rate since 1971, and despite Trump's claims, most people living in the U.S. illegally have simply overstayed visas, not crossed over the Southern border.

A few years ago we might have thought that statistics like these would convince the public that the answer to any border security issues we might have is not a $5 billion wall; now we fear that facts are no longer persuasive. Trump has moved away from facts and into pure rhetoric. This rhetoric encourages Americans to distrust the media and further harms the very Americans the President claims to support.

TSA employees are not getting paid, resulting in longer airport lines and less thorough security; the FDA is not inspecting food as it comes into the country; national parks have been unable to collect crucial park fees. Though on the surface things seem to be business-as-usual here in Middlebury, people here and around the country are affected every day by Trump's recklessness.

Two years into his presidency, Trump's influence over his strongest supporters is as clear as ever. His capacity to make people believe things that are plainly not true makes it even more important to reaffirm the truth — even when doing so feels tiresome, or like shouting into the void.

Even on a small scale, the choice to give up and cede the debate to those who traffic in falsehoods would be disastrous, once that apathy spreads throughout the electorate. As student journalists, we certainly work on a small scale. But at the very least, we hope that our choice to pay attention and stay vigilant comes from the same truth-seeking impulse that motivates the reporters who scrutinize Trump's finances, or debunk his toxic myths about immigration.

As Middlebury students, it's essential that we think and read critically to work toward the future that we want. This style of governing is inefficient and dangerous, and young people need to decide if this is the way we want our government to function. We believe that a president should not be able to hamstring the government and the public because he could not achieve what he wanted in the two years his party controlled both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

There is no end on the horizon for this shutdown. Democrats are happy to continue to refuse funding the wall and many Republican senators feel their political fortunes are tied to Trump and therefore continue to support him. Trump has rejected and refused to consider reasonable proposals to re-open the government and separate the border security issue.

But we are reassured by the recent polls showing that a majority of Americans agree that the President is at fault for the shutdown.

Truth is not dead, but it has taken work to keep it alive.

Divestment Does Not Threaten Financial Aid

By MEMBERS OF DIVEST MIDDLEBURY

In recent months, we have become aware of concerns that divestment might present a risk to financial aid. Divest Middlebury would like to state publicly that the accessibility of our institution is a top priority for our group. We are a climate justice organization that stands for racial, gender and economic equity. Financial aid is a priority of our group as a whole and also of personal importance to many of our organizers. In writing this op-ed we also hope to stress the economic benefits of divestment and reaffirm our commitment to our fellow students. Arguments that pit financial aid and environmental justice against each other are unfair and inaccurate. These arguments ultimately put the burden for climate inaction on Middlebury College's most vulnerable students.

There is ample evidence that divestment from fossil fuels is a financially savvy decision. In the official referendum ratified by the student body, SGA and the faculty, Divest Middlebury asked the Board to pledge to divest all holdings in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel corporations over a five-year time period. This extended timeline would allow the college's investment managers to divest holdings in a controlled way, ensure low financial risk, and reinvest in more profitable and sustainable industries.

In 2010, MSCI, a prominent provider of stock market indices and analysis, created two investment indices of the largest 9,500 corporations, one that included fossil fuel investments and another that did not. Over the next five years, the fossil-free portfolio averaged an annual return .97 percent higher than the index including fossil fuel corporations. If $1 billion had been invested in the fossil free index in 2010, it would now be worth $2.24 billion, whereas its counterpart would be worth $2.13 billion. In 2017, fossil fuels were also the second worst performing sector in the S&P 500 stock market index, losing four percent compared to market gains of 19 percent. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a fortune that made its money in the fossil fuel industry, recently published a report stating that the Fund's success has shown that fossil fuel divestment "can be done without causing harm to the overall performance of your investment portfolio." These sentiments are shared by the nearly 1,000 other institutions that have pledged to divest. A recent analysis by investment strategist Jeremy Grantham found that there was no evidence that divested financial institutions experience increased losses. Similarly, another study demonstrates the potential financial penalties for not divesting, suggesting that New York State pension funds have lost $22 billion by staying invested in fossil fuels.

Stranded assets theory confirms the financial risk of not divesting: continued investment only exposes portfolios to risk, since marketed valuation of fossil fuel corporations is contingent upon the burning of 942 gigatons of carbon reserves. Fossil fuel corporations cannot approach their market valuation without ignoring the Paris Climate Agreement, which restricts future carbon emissions to 800 gigatons. Failure to divest puts our endowment at unnecessary risk of the carbon bubble caused by stranded assets. Furthermore, when other institutions of higher education have divested, donations have significantly increased. For all of these reasons, we believe that divestment is the fiscally responsible action.

Even in the unlikely case that Middlebury loses returns due to divestment, losses should not impact financial aid. Investments in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies make up 0.6 percent of Middlebury's endowment, with 5 percent of the endowment having exposure in the entire fossil fuel industry. Currently, 25 percent of Middlebury's endowment goes toward financial aid. In the case of any loss due to discontinued exposure to the fossil fuel industry, risk would be spread evenly across the endowment. It is unlikely that fossil fuels outperform the rest of the market and all alternative investments, yet even if fossil fuels outperformed the other 95 percent of investments by 10 BP points (.1 percent), the impact of not being invested in the fossil fuels industry would be $55,000 from our total endowment. This would result in a total loss of $13,750 from financial aid, a minimal loss in comparison to millions our school commits to financial aid each year. In the past, Middlebury has not cut its institutional commitment to funding financial aid in years of poor endowment performance. For this reason, individuals who argue that financial aid should be the first thing to be cut reveal much more about their own priorities than the priorities of the college or the divest movement.

It is unfair and insulting to use students on financial aid as an excuse for inaction and the perpetuation of injustice. Divestment represents an important action that Middlebury can take to condemn climate change, support the college mission statement, and protect students' futures. We would like to point out that students of more vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds are statistically more likely than wealthier classmates to experience negative impacts from fossil fuel infrastructure and environmental injustice. We are here to learn the skills necessary to protect our families and home communities from climate change. Falsely using our education as an argument to continue investment in the same industry that is hurting us is both cruel and flawed.

In the end, discourse that frames divestment as being at odds with financial aid is fearmongering. We know that divestment and financial aid can go hand in hand and we are thrilled to stand for both. We regret that our fellow classmates may have felt nervous about the financial impacts of divestment and will happily participate in further conversation about concerns regarding this issue. As always, our movement is open to everyone, especially those most marginalized by the climate crisis. We will not allow our educations to be used as a rhetorical device with which to jeopardize our futures as we move towards climate justice together.

This article was written by Cora Kircher '20, Leif Taranta '20.5, Divya Gudur, '21, Zoe Grodsky '20.5 and Lucy Weiss '20.5.

The Proposed Protest Policy and the Infantilization of Students

By SOPHIE CLARK

I was shocked by the college's proposed new protest and demonstration policy released in November because I fundamentally disagree with the idea of protest regulations and, more importantly, because these particular policies are frankly insulting to the student body.

In my opinion, protest policies are inherently unjust. Liberal arts schools exist to teach students how to think and express themselves. Dictating how to engage in debate undermines the entire point of our education. Furthermore, protest policies raise the question, "If protest rules are put in place to protect freedom of speech, does protesting not count as free speech?"

Regardless of whether you believe colleges should have protest policies or not, this particular policy is damaging for two reasons.

First, section 10 states, "Non-disruptive expressive activity is permitted at Middlebury, subject to the Demonstration Regulations regarding time, place and manner of the activity, and the Policy on Scheduling Space for Middlebury Events." Forcing students to schedule a place in which to protest (which is also present in sections 6 and 8 of our current protest policy) is an endorsement of the physical marginalization of already marginalized students on campus. Protests occur when people feel that their voices are not being heard. Physically moving less-heard voices to places where they will not disturb invited speakers creates an extra barrier to freedom of expression on a campus where those voices are already underrepresented.

Second, this policy is insulting to the students of Middlebury College. It implies that we have learned nothing from events two years ago, and that the majority of the current student body (who were not even present for Charles Murray's visit) should bear the consequences of the actions of a few.

Most strikingly, this policy is a gross infantilization of the student body. Setting up such definitive rules and regulations for protests is assuming that we cannot make our own critical decisions, and instead must be dictated to like children. We chose to come to Middlebury College to grow into thoughtful members of society, and top-down decrees are offensive to students who are creative, critical and free-thinking.

If the college wants to retain its reputation as a true liberal arts school, a place where students can learn how to critique their world and freely express themselves non-violently, I urge administrators to rethink these new proposed protest policies.

Sophie Clark is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.

Dear My People: It's Not Always About Us, So Listen Up

By ALEXIS LEVATO

All pain is not equal.

Volume II, Chapter II of the Netflix series Dear White People exposes this.

Reggie's new roommate, Clifton, a white student athlete, equates Reggie's experience of having a gun pointed at him by campus police to Thane's death, caused by toxic drinking culture. Clifton says simply, "pain is pain." He fails to acknowledge what the campus protests articulate because he is busy saying "us too."

Thane's death is of course very sad and gestures to toxic masculinity and deadly drinking. However, it is not the same as being held at gunpoint because of your skin color. These things are drastically different.

Instead of trying to relate your pain to someone else's, try instead to acknowledge that discrimination exists, and people have different relationships to power structures.

Here we can apply Foucault's work about power structures. It is not about who has suffered the most. Rather, it is about how certain people suffer in particular ways because of their relationship to power. We must understand these relationships if we want to have productive conversations about pain and oppression.

The next time your friends feel like talking about their unique pain or experiences, do not dismiss what they have been through as normal or equivalent to what you have experienced. Each person's life is different. Ignoring this fact means ignoring that many people experience the world in ways you could never imagine. Instead of trying to understand this, because you never will, try to understand what exactly causes this.

Most often, it is a bunch of institutions that make individuals feel this pain. Understanding the relationship between people and institutions of power is critical to changing oppressive systems.

Another part of this is listening. Not trying to be the same or to have suffered more or to have had worse experiences, but actually listening. Hear people's pain and respect it. Then, you can start working towards lessening it. This doesn't always mean comforting a person and saying it will get better, because it won't. Not until the system that hurts them changes.

We cannot make progress until we acknowledge that people's pain and suffering is different, because systems affect people differently. We need to stop saying "I have pain too" and start to listen when people say "I suffer because systems make me."

Alexis Levato is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

This is an installment of a series in which the writer reflects on themes in the show "Dear White People," which she is analyzing in an independent study course.

The Pragmatic Left: Making a Bigger Tent

By JOEY LYONS

Donald Trump's election stunned the Democratic Party. An unprecedented campaign yielded an unimagined result. Election night climaxed with televisions splashing images of sobbing Hillary supporters and euphoric MAGA-hatted Trump acolytes.

Democrats were due for this rude awakening. Republicans have dominated the recent political landscape, and, prior to the 2018 election, Democrats held fewer elected positions in the United States than at any time since the 1920s. However, it took someone as appalling as Trump for us to realize our current political inefficacy and start discussing a viable path to restored political power.

The Washington Post's Aaron Blake summarized the Democrat's historically bad position in 2016. Republicans in that year controlled:

- 33 of 50 governorships: a record.
- 68 out of 98 state legislative chambers: tied for the record.
- The entire legislatures in 33 out of 50 states: another record.
- 4,171 out of 7,383 state legislative seats (56.5 percent of all seats): yet another record.

Republican power at the local and state levels eclipsed Democrats' power even before Trump took office. Liberals were either ignorant or complacent about that fact. Our party needed revamping: one that cared not only about getting the issues "right", but also one that valued winning elections. After all, in a democracy, the losers do not get to make the rules. After the 2018 election, that revamping may become a reality if we can set aside ideological purity for pragmatic decisions that win seats in diverse districts (beyond liberalism's coastal strongholds).

Once Trump took office, his antics and bigotry energized Democrats. The erratic President and his controversies captured our attention. We watched as Trump and a GOP Congress chaotically pursued a regressive agenda that featured tax cuts for the rich, an almost successful attempt to repeal Obamacare, a ballooning fiscal deficit, a retreat on climate change regulations, and the separation of children from their families at the border.

In last November's midterm elections, the Democrats, led by Nancy Pelosi, implemented an effective electoral strategy. Rather than repeating Hillary Clinton's failed strategy during the 2016 campaign, which emphasized Trump's moral failings but did not articulate a clear alternative vision to cure the country's ills, Democratic leaders encouraged their candidates to stress health care, increased wages, decreased prescription drug prices, and other kitchen-table issues. The Democrats' economic message in 2018 resonated with a broad coalition of voters across the country, and the Party gained forty seats and won the House.

Despite their midterm success, Democrats remain divided over how the party should proceed.

One group argues that Democratic candidates won elections because they advocated progressive policies like universal basic income, Medicare for All, and free college, while also calling for the abolition of ICE and Trump's impeachment. Fearless progressivism, they claim, stirred the base of younger voters, many of whom were women and minorities. This cadre was led by the exciting victories of representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ayanna Pressley, and the near victory of Beto O'Rourke in dead red Texas.

However, Ocasio-Cortez and Pressley did not gain seats for the Democrats. They simply took seats that had been held by reliable, albeit a bit more centrist,

liberal Democrats. O'Rourke lost. Moreover, their progressive voices have pushed the party left, endangering moderate Democrats in centrist areas.

More centrist Democrats recognize that, if you want to address Democrats' lack of political power, you need to win seats that were previously Republican or hold onto Democratic seats in areas that often vote conservative. Last November, Pelosi helped Democratic candidates find success in moderate districts by resisting her party's pull to the left. Pelosi's San Francisco voters pushed her to confront Trump on immigration and funding for Planned Parenthood, but she refused. "Those things are in our DNA, but they are not in our talking points," Pelosi said.

Research shows that Pelosi's strategy of forsaking hot-button, wedge issues in favor of a focus on economic populism is best. Extensive polling and focus group research collected by the House Majority PAC indicates that Democrats seeking to flip Republican voters and win contested districts must focus on health care and jobs.

There are many examples of Pelosi's strategy bearing fruit. For example, Conor Lamb won a traditionally Republican district in western Pennsylvania by emphasizing health care and tax equity. This was a big gain for the Democratic Party, and should not be dismissed because Lamb took conservative stances on gun rights and supported Trump's tariff policy, positions that aligned with the voters in his district. In West Virginia, which Trump carried by the widest margin in the entire nation (an astounding 42 percent gap), Democrat Joe Manchin held on to his Senate seat because voters saw him as fighting for the economically disadvantaged. To do this, Manchin had to show some conservative bona fides, such as voting to confirm Justice Kavanaugh, opposing abortion, and receiving an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association as recently as 2012. While he would not have been an ideal Democratic candidate in Massachusetts or California, he was the only kind of Democrat that has a shot at winning in West Virginia.

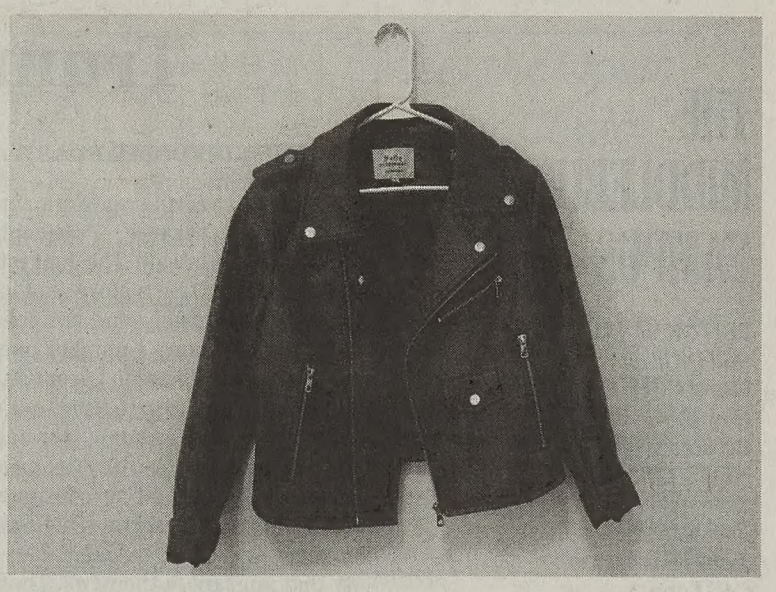
Liberal purity on social wedge issues often undermines moderate Democrats who campaign in red states and threatens recent Democratic successes. Take the midterm election in Missouri, a state Trump won by nineteen points. Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill lost her seat last November in part because of criticism from abortion activists. Throughout the election, young progressives denounced McCaskill for not being a sufficiently prominent, vocal supporter of women's reproductive freedoms. What these progressive attacks failed to acknowledge was McCaskill's strong, pro-choice voting record.

In an interview with the New York Times after her loss, McCaskill called the abortion activists "irritating ... It would've been one thing if I ever wavered, but I've had to take a lot of tough votes on this issue over the years. I have been standing in the breach for women's rights as it relates to reproductive freedom for all of my adult life." In the end, Missouri elected Senator Josh Hawley, a staunch pro-life Republican. Because of the more extreme left's quest for purity on this issue, the Democrats lost an important Senate seat. They also ironically replaced a consistent vote for reproductive rights with a Republican whom Planned Parenthood called "An anti-abortion zealot who wants to take America back to the days of the 1950s."

The left needs to stop setting up circular firing squads. When activists make contentious issues litmus tests for holding office, it hurts moderate Democrats campaigning in conservative states. Our candidates need to be able to attract votes in socially-conservative districts without fearing retribution from coastal progressives. As former House Speaker Tip O'Neill said, "All politics is local." Let's broaden the Democratic tent, and allow centrist voices to campaign in moderate districts.

Joey Lyons is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.

Graphic by Esme Fahnestock.



The Lookbook: Vegan Leather

By CLARK LEWIS

My mom tells me all the time that I need another jacket like I need a hole in my head.

They're my favorite item of clothing to wear because they're stylish, comfortable and can be layered on top of other clothing. Jackets are my weakness. One jacket that I recently brought back to campus is a wine colored, vegan leather, motorcycle jacket that I bought from ASOS last year. I knew I wanted an edgy addition to my wardrobe and after shopping around for a few weeks, I decided on this jacket because of its textiles.

I personally do not believe in wearing clothes made from animals. Therefore, I was excited to find a moto jacket that was vegan. A quick search online showed me that vegan leather is praised by PETA for being animal friendly and indeed made of alternative materials. I read many news articles pushing vegan leather as the new fashion wave that every animal lover should buy.

At the time, I had no clue what vegan leather really meant; what standards a company had to follow, what substitute materials were used and which organization regulated this process were all lost to me. I was simply lured in by the "vegan" label and idea of being a conscientious consumer. I later learned that this was not completely true.

Instead of animal hides, vegan leather is usually made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyurethane (PU) and other textile-polymers. Chemicals — goody. Vegan leather, or faux leather, is manufactured through a process in which plastic-based synthetics are mixed, burned and pressed before being attached to a fabric backing.

This process releases dioxins, which are extremely dangerous to not only the workers creating these garments but to the environment as well.

Dioxins are chemical compounds classified as persistent organic pollutants. These chemicals are not biodegradable. Because synthetic and mixed fabrics are much more difficult and expensive to recycle, these garments are often being thrown out with the rest of our waste — which further allows these dioxins to enter our environment.

While some designers are using more natural materials to make their vegan leather, many are not.

Since I was young, I have noticed the debate around animal use in cosmetics and fashion. But I find it concerning that even though this has been a long-term battle, we still haven't found a solution. It seems that everything is a compromise and in this case, one win for animal protection comes at the expense of human and environmental safety.

I believe this is another deviation between marketing and consumer knowledge. I am constantly seeing topics such as animal cruelty, social justice and environmentalism incorporated into marketing campaigns. I feel that in today's society where being "woke" is the cool and honorable thing to do, consumers are more likely to buy whatever labels will help them do so.

I am guilty of this.

I saw "vegan leather" in the product description and instantly got a warm, tingly feeling as I added my the jacket to my online shopping cart. I thought I had done my job as a good human being. It was only after I had explored several articles and gotten past the PETA homepage that I realized there was a serious problem with what the textiles companies were marketing to us.

Over the course of writing The Lookbook, and my shopping addiction, I think I've learned a lot about the fashion industry and consumerism. But I'm always surprised at how much I'm still learning.

Being a conscientious consumer is difficult and time-consuming. It is also a process that is not yet perfect. However, what I learned from this purchase was to do your research extensively and not to be lured in by a product description you don't fully understand.

Clark Lewis is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

New Year's Resolutions: My Keys to Better Learning and Happiness

By CHRISTINE MCDOW

Adequate habitual sleep and nutrition are major barriers to college student academic success. The presupposition that college students already know or have access to knowledge of the best studying practices is categorically true. Information on best practices for studying, time management and learning are readily available to college students through institution sponsored peer tutors, professor office hours, and college learning assistance centers. Considering Maslow's revised hierarchy of needs, it is futile for a college student to strive to have her higher-level cognitive needs met if her lower-level physiological needs for sleep and nutrition go unmet.

In hunger and tiredness, the joy of learning can easily be forgotten. Before even approaching the seat in the lecture hall or the carrel in the library, preparation for academic success must begin by approaching the bed in the dorm room and the plate in the dining hall. To prepare to study well in 2019, college students should first learn to habitually eat and rest well.

College students often brag about their sleep debts. With verbosity, they divulge how many "all-nighters" they pull and how much caffeine they consume in a given week. Although such boastings are generally viewed as socially acceptable if not laudable on college campuses, college students should know that sleeplessness contests are a race to the bottom.

College-age students need about nine hours of sleep per night. If students do not get adequate sleep, they will likely experience difficulty paying attention, thinking clearly, learning new information and solving problems. Psychologists deem lack of attention as one of the seven deadly sins of memory. As such, a sleep-deprived college student will also experience difficulty converting information from short-term and working memory to long-term memory; thus, hampering learning.

Beyond difficulty with studying and learning, a lack of sleep is a risk factor for major depression. Moderate to total sleep deprivation stimulates social repulsion signals and sedates prosocial signals in the human brain resulting in the exhibition of a behavioral phenotype of social withdrawal and loneliness. This behavioral phenotype is distinct and is recognized by others who then begin to avoid the exhibiting individual. The consequence of sleep deprivation is thus a vicious cycle of spiraling loneliness as members of the social group withdraw from the individual and the individual further withdraws from the social group.

Depression and loneliness, regardless of severity, can make it more difficult for college students to find the motivation to attend and study for classes — thus, hindering learning. If a college student is having difficulty sleeping, she should know that her academic performance could be at risk.

To address poor sleep habits, college students may consider readjusting their schedules to allow for nine hours of rest each day — even if all that time is not spent sleeping. Students can also set alarms that correspond with sleeping for 90-minute intervals so that sleep cycles are not interrupted. If a college student finds that her difficulty sleeping is not resolved by budgeting more time for rest, she should see a health professional. Possible behavioral psychological interventions to improve quality of sleep may include cognitive-behavioral therapy, relaxation techniques, mindfulness and hypnotherapy.

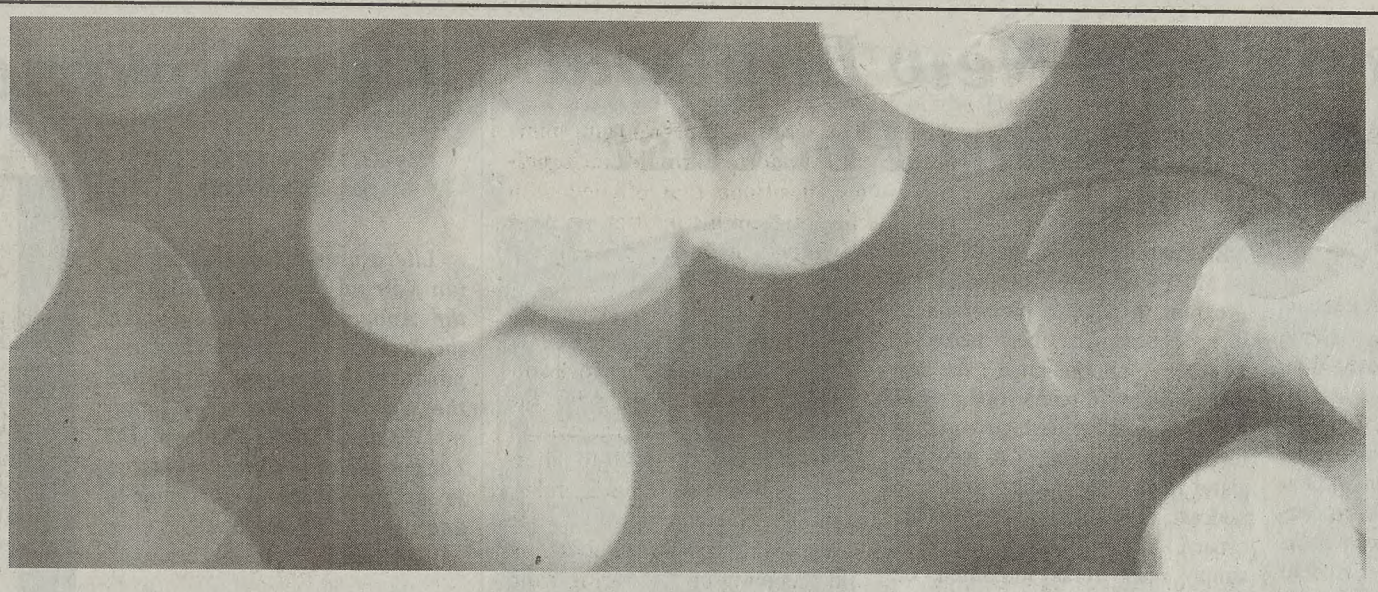
Once a college student changes her schedule to ensure that she arrives to the lecture hall and the library well-rested, the college student can then shift her attention to arriving to academic commitments well-fed. A textbook-based course may meet at a time when a student might otherwise be consuming a meal. If this is the case, a college student may consider readjusting her schedule to allow for time to consume a meal prior to attending class.

Coming to class hungry will cause her to be preoccupied with thoughts of food decreasing attention and hampering memory of course material. In the case of a morning class, the benefits of eating breakfast are well-documented. A study at Qazvin University of Medical Sciences found that college students who ate breakfast, consumed at least eight servings of fruit and vegetables, and consumed three meals and two snacks daily were the happier than their peers. Thus, the quality, quantity, and consistency of a student's diet has implications on both physical and emotional health.

In the case of classes near lunchtime, eating lunch can be associated with a post-lunch dip in the performance. However, the combination of lunch with a short nap mitigates the post-lunch dip and improves alertness, mental and physical performance. Eating breakfast along with consuming a consistent quality diet of moderate calorie, nutrient-rich food is positively correlated with academic achievement. Regardless of when a college student's class meets, the student should ensure that she consumes sufficient nutrients prior to attending the class so that she arrives attentive, happy, and ready to learn.

The narrow pursuit of the gaining esteem by achieving of academic excellence in a textbook-based course must be placed within the broader pursuit of a healthy self. High quality sleep and balanced nutrition, along with exercise, outdoor activity and sunlight exposure are key parts of living a healthy lifestyle as a college student. If, by prioritizing her physical needs to eat and sleep, a college student begins to inhabit her body well, she will decrease her risk of experiencing depression and increase academic attention and focus. Thus, consistently eating and sleeping well is a college student's most ready means of sustaining her love of learning in 2019.

Christine McDow is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.



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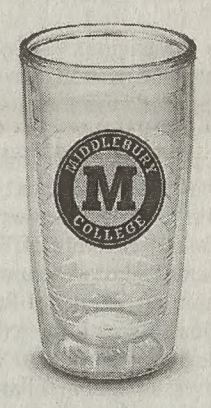

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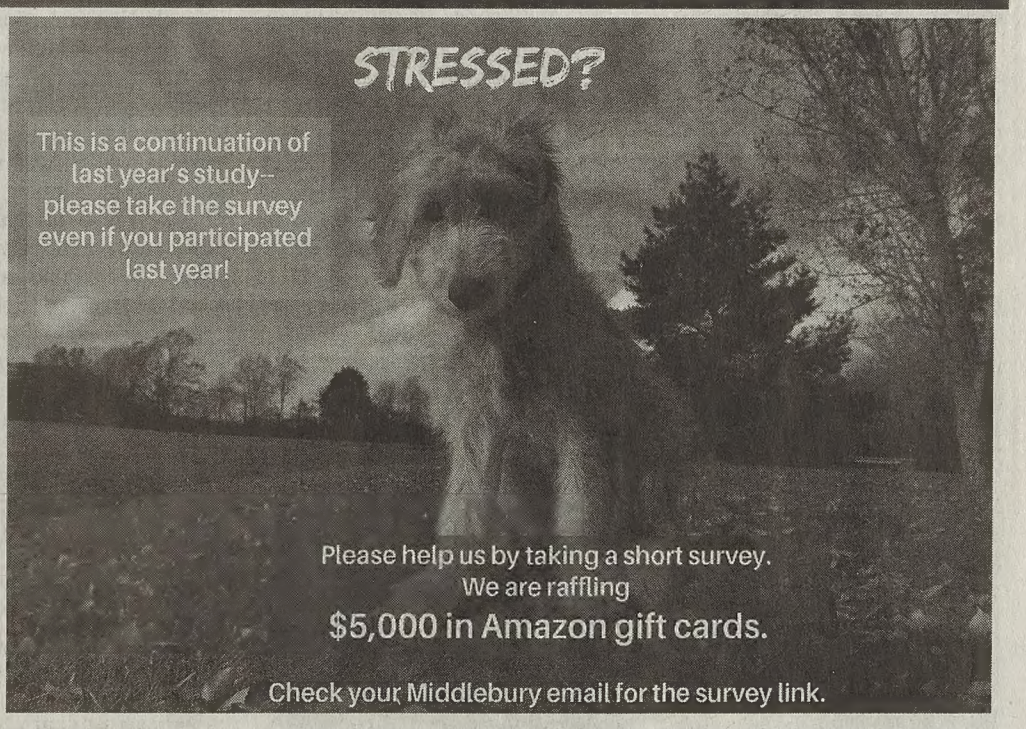

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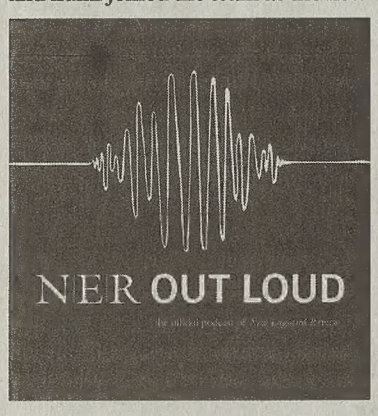
Reflecting on New England Review's Debut Podcast

By **BEN BEESE**
Staff Writer

"NER Out Loud," New England Review's new student podcast, shows the power of podcasting done right and the role it can play in our communal lives.

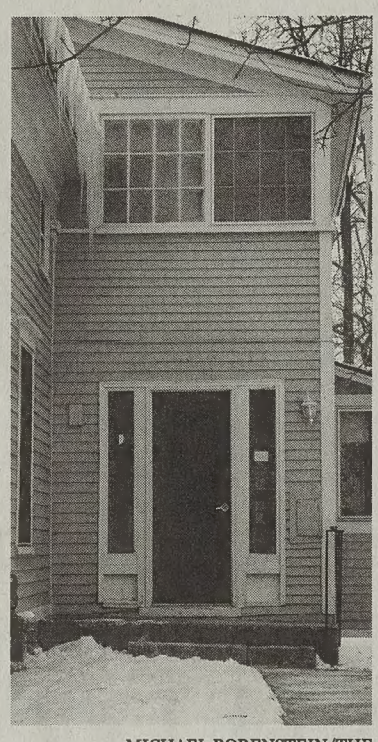
The podcast is the product of the work of New England Review, Oratory Now, podcasting Professor Aaron Davis, executive producers Dana Yeaton and Carolyn Kuebler, student producers Kylie Winger '19, Juliette Luini '18.5, Hannah Green '18.5, Sam Martin '19, and Ellie Eberlee '20, sound engineers Sydney Warren '19 and Emma Schoblocher '20, managing editors Eli Sutton and Mary Pomerantz, among others. Inspired by the five-year-old NER and Oratory Now live event of the same name, the foundations of "NER Out Loud" were laid during a J-term workshop last year. From there, Martin, Green and Eberlee ran with the project through the spring and summer, honing both recordings from the live event and the nature of the podcast as a whole. In September, Winger and Luini joined the team as the new NER interns.



COURTESY PHOTO
"New England Review" launched its very first podcast last October.

More than simply producing the program, a difficult project on its own, this team has been tasked to discover "NER Out Loud": the purpose, style, and direction of the show. It has become increasingly common for literary magazines like New England Review to produce their own podcast, each taking their own approach. One could, for instance, simply read works submitted, or, focus on interviews and extra-textual programming relating to the pieces in the magazine. "NER Out Loud," remaining loyal to its Oratory Now progenitor, has chosen to focus on the performance of the pieces. Every episode features several theater students who deliver a carefully perfected performance imbued with intention, art and subtlety.

What is most striking about "NER Out Loud" is its intimacy which exists despite the expansive collaboration upon whose shoulders it sits. Listening to an episode, the teams of students, interns, executive producers, writers, readers and editors all fade to the dark periphery allowing only a pure stream of art to shine through. There is a sense of connection that looks in your eyes and says "this is my experience, share it with me" that "NER Out Loud" captures. The podcast pulls on a deep quality of art, its ability to bind us together, feeling each other's life and presence and uniting us in our humanity. The reader, the writer and the listener are, for about 20 minutes, joined in a communion, feeding on each other's joys, sadness, memories and dreams. At the end of each episode, with the reading of the credits and the return to the wider world, you remember that you are not the only listener and that what you hear is merely the veneer of a great crowd of invested contributors' work. Yet this realization only expands the feeling of intimate community. One feels connected with the rest of the world, the unspecified masses among whom we live.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The office of New England Review, a quarterly literary magazine published by the college, is located right off campus.

"NER Out Loud" is just getting started, having only published the first two of their semi-regular finely crafted shows. "NER Out Loud" can be found on Apple Podcasts and Soundcloud, and the producers encourage interested listeners to rate and review the show on those platforms. New episodes can be expected roughly once a month.

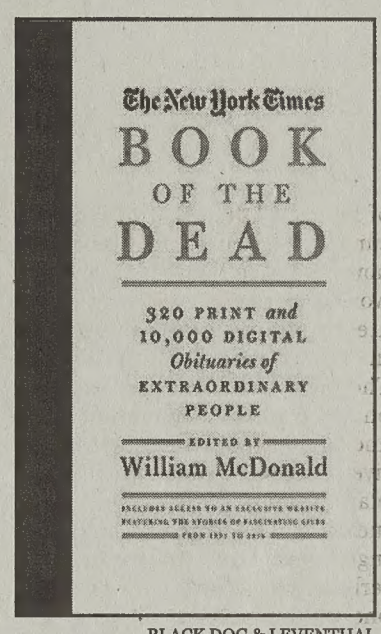
The Librarian Is In

By **KATRINA SPENCER**
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The New York Times' "Book of the Dead: 320 Print and 10,000 Digital Obituaries of Extraordinary People"

Edited by William McDonald



BLACK DOG & LEVENTHAL

As the title suggests, this massive work is a collection of over 10,000 obituaries that cover the lives of entertainers, politicians, justice seekers ("Champions of the Cause") and more. Divided into 16 chapters and accompanied by an index ordered by name, the print portion of this text groups people by the industries they served while living and the causes they took up. Businesspeople like industrialist Henry Ford and tech visionary Steve Jobs are grouped together, for example, as are writers like poet Walt Whitman and Harper Lee, author of "To Kill A Mockingbird." Each chapter is ordered by the chronological date of the featured person's death, earliest to latest. So, track and field Olympian Jesse Owens (1913- 1980) appears before boxer and political activist Muhammad Ali (1942- 2016).

An unique feature of this book is that 320 historical figures are featured in print and 10,000 (!) are included on a web key (a pen/USB/thumb drive) found within the front cover of the book. Once the drive is plugged into a USB port on a computer, the user is prompted to register an email address to access the thousands of obituaries ("obits") that are available in digital format. They can be browsed, too, within 40 categories like "Architects," "Explorers," "Fashion," Food" and "Nobility." When I searched "Julia Child," a world renowned culinary figure and author of "My Life In France," I found that she didn't like grilled vegetables or think much of Mexican food. We would not have been friends.

While flipping through the pages of the print text, I first visited profiles like Harriet Tubman's and Malcolm X's, two prominent figures in the fights for racial freedoms in the United States. Then I went to the stars of the small and big screens like Lucille Ball and Marlon Brando. "I Love Lucy" was one of the first sitcoms I ever watched and it introduced me to countless themes of gender and an expert comedienne whose skill remains hard to match. I was curious about Brando because whispers and murmurs of his sex appeal still linger in conversations about Hollywood and I wanted to know what the hype was all about. I read of Dred Scott whose freedom was argued at the Supreme Court; Thomas Gallaudet who founded a school for the deaf in Washington, D.C.; and of Althea Gibson, a figure of whom I'd never heard before, who was "Serena Williams" before there was a Serena Williams.

This "Book of the Dead" can serve as a trivia tool that provides quick information on major figures from the past, particularly those from the 20th century, and as a potential research tool for those seeking brief profiles on the famous or how to write a posthumous account of a deceased person's life. However, the work is as interesting for what it does include as for what it doesn't. For example, of the 320 people appearing in print, about 43 represent women. That's less than 15 percent. Moreover, I don't think one of the 320, male, female or trans, is Asian American. Why might that be? Also, there's no chapter dedicated to scientists. The likes of these are perhaps found under the sections entitled "American Leaders" and "Thinkers." Why? This sort of lens, one that allows for questioning what is there and what isn't tells users of the text what the United States and the New York Times (NYT) has historically considered "noteworthy" and "remarkable." It makes one ask the question, "How many people whose lives were especially meaningful never made it to the NYT obits? What were the criteria for determining which figures would appear in print? How come so many are male? As an information worker who is constantly at the task of treating issues of representation, the text is rather compelling.

Let me share an appropriately self-aware excerpt from the introduction: "One will notice that most of the people who appear in these pages are white and male... the bias is undeniable, and it, too, is historical: It reflects the prejudices and injustices of an early era...one must inevitably draw from those who controlled the levers of power, and that group, as we know, was composed mostly of white men." Moreover, some important figures never made it to the NYT obits because they gained their fame posthumously.

So, if you're looking for an exhaustively comprehensive text, it's not this one. But if you're into "Old Hollywood," I recommend you take a gander. For other works that study yesteryear, check out the Davis Family Library's "Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong" by James W. Loewen; "A People's History of the United States"-by Howard Zinn; "An African American and Latinx History of the United States" by Paul Ortiz, none of which I have read — yet.

Former Governors Talk Polarization at Politics Luncheon

By **SEBASTIÁN GRANDAS**
Contributing Writer

"In an environment of intense political polarization, how can the country work together to solve its problems?"

This question was raised Tuesday, Jan. 15 as the subject of a public question and answer session with former governor of Tennessee, Democrat Phil Bredesen, and former governor of Vermont, Republican Jim Douglas. With the federal government shut down over the question of a multibillion-dollar, anti-immigrant border wall, the question comes at a critical time in the history of the United States — a time that makes the question a difficult one to answer.

Both former governors are self-described centrists. Both have had political success in states that traditionally do not support their political party. And both remain proud of their work as governor, compromising with opposition-party legislatures on behalf of the public interest. It is from this perspective that the two men, now good friends, proposed to speak about the current state of polarized U.S. politics.

Prompted by an audience of both students and town residents at the Robert A. Jones House conference room, the governors offered a variety of reasons why they believe the U.S. is so polarized politically, along with some potential solutions. Responding to the opening question by the coordinator of the session, Professor of Political Science Matt Dickinson, Bredesen commented that the mental frameworks people use to analyze political issues make a big difference in the way they end up approaching those issues. He described his efforts as governor to not let his legislative priorities become framed as party-based choices.

"You know there's an old adage, I'm sure you've heard of it — if the only tool you have is a hammer, you make every problem into a nail," Bredesen said. "I think there's an analogy with the political world that if the only tool you have to think about issues is Democrat versus Republican, you are going to make every issue into that kind of issue."

A large part of the discussion was dedicated to how news, whether from traditional sources or through social media, might be affecting the current political situation. Douglas, who is now an executive-in-residence at the college, suggested that there is a natural tendency for media outlets to err on the outlandish side of news interpretations, as "the story about the cat that didn't get stuck in the tree" would not do so well ratings wise. He cited Professor Dickinson in advising the audience to always look at multiple sources in their news consumption.

On this subject, Bredesen, fresh off a nationally prominent Senate campaign, specifically pointed out that nationally, news companies are being forced to cut their staff due to budget concerns. He believes that this makes the problem of one-sided news coverage much worse, as there are less resources available for in-depth, open-minded reporting, leaving the news to be filled with quicker, more reactionary impressions.

Douglas reacted positively when the idea of term limits for congresspeople was floated by a student, saying that, "Pushing the refresh button every now and then in our national cackle might not be a bad idea." Bredesen, however, reacted strongly against this proposal, citing his experience working with a term-limited Nashville City Council. As an alternative, he suggested putting an end to widespread gerrymandering — the practice in which state legislatures redraw legislative districts with the intent of suppressing the power of votes for the opposition party. This practice leads to districts that are easy wins for one party or another, which in turn causes the election of more polarized legislators who do not need to account for a broad coalition of voters.

"To me the answer is to make districts more competitive. The House was designed to be a place that flows from election to election with the will of the people. Except we've gotten so good at designing districts now — that doesn't happen anymore."

Ultimately, Bredesen felt strongly that the solution will not lie in one party's ideas winning out over the other. Instead of making political issues into a fight between different groups, he championed the ability to listen to a variety of perspectives in order to find solutions that work for a broad range of people.

"The idea that one ideology has all the answers is absurd on the face of it," Bredesen said. "I think listening respectfully to different people's views on how you might solve these problems and trying to understand them is critical."

Douglas wrapped up his comments on a different note, warning the audience to be wary of being swayed by the strong views that are expressed by activists.

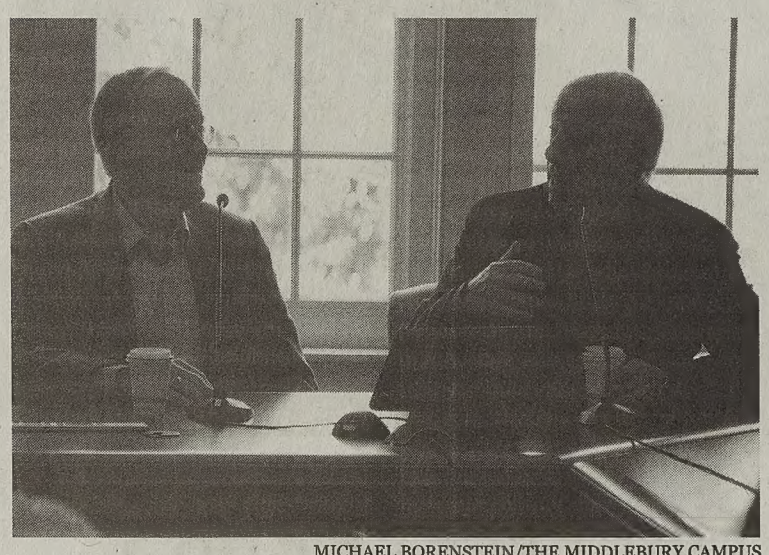
"I used to look out the window of my office and see these people demonstrating for or against something, and I wondered — Don't they have a job?" Douglas said. "I think, to be honest, there are paid demonstrators who will take whatever position they're asked to."

This stance — that many activist are paid — was famously used by Donald Trump in October to dismiss the Kavanaugh protests.

The question and answer session ended with both former governors looking ahead to the next presidential election. Both hold the hope that there may be a candidate who will be able to bring the divided country together — although neither knows specifically who that might be. The former governors are in agreement that it may take a strong presidential commitment to unifying the polarized parties to ultimately improve the current situation. Bredesen, invoking the history of the country, left the audience with a few thoughts on the gravity of the situation.

"I think our country, every so often, goes through an existential challenge to its basic stuff. How we respond to that challenge always sets the path of where we are going as a country. There was the civil war and slavery. There was industrialism and all of that," Bredesen said. "Certainly the Depression, the civil rights movement — and I think we are going through it right now. Technology and globalization are upsetting all sorts of assumptions about what's important, and we have to respond."

While the former governors offered some ideas as to what that response should look like, what it will actually end up being remains to be seen.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Former Democratic governor Phil Bredesen of Tennessee (right) and former Republican governor Jim Douglas of Vermont were the special guests at this week's politics luncheon hosted by Professor Matt Dickinson.

DON'T MISS THIS

Mark Padmore, Tenor; Paul Lewis, Piano

The art song "dream team" (New York Times) of British tenor Mark Padmore and compatriot pianist Paul Lewis comes to Middlebury with a stunning program of German lieder, including selections by Brahms, Mahler's Rückert-Lieder, and Schumann's Dichterliebe.

Friday 01/18, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall

Burning

Deliveryman Jongsu is out on a job when he runs into Haemi, a girl who once lived in his neighborhood. She asks if he'd mind looking after her cat while she's away on a trip to Africa. On her return she introduces a young man named Ben, who she met during her trip. And one day Ben tells Jongsu about his most unusual hobby...

Saturday 01/19, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sunderland Language Center, Dana Auditorium

MLK Afternoon of Action

Sign-up to participate in a community-based project working with youth hosted by the Center for Community Engagement. Monday, January 21st 1pm-4pm. Join us in volunteering the Ilsley Library or the Teen Center. Transportation provided from Adirondack Circle. To sign up and for more information go to go/mlkafternoonofaction.

Monday 01/21, 1-4 p.m., Wilson Hall

New Music Series Highlights Unheard Voices

By JOHN GOSSELIN
Senior Writer

Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Matthew Evan Taylor is curating a series of concerts from now until May that will celebrate women and people of color, who are typically underrepresented in the classical music tradition. Their first two concerts occurred on Jan. 6 and 11 in Waterbury, Vt. and Middlebury College, respectively. The other concerts will take place at venues around Vermont, including the FlynnSpace in Burlington and Axel's Gallery in Waterbury, but all will have at least one performance at the college in the Mahaney Performing Arts Center.

This series of concerts presents a unique opportunity to new and old listeners because it includes the work of composers who have not yet been heard in Vermont. I must admit that I had not seen the names of any of the composers or performers Professor Taylor is bringing to our campus. I hope to provide some background information on some of the artists included in this series both for the sake of general interest and to engage potential audiences. I highly recommend attending as many of these concerts as you can because they will provide a refreshing change of pace from the Performing Arts Series Society (PASS) events I usually cover and because it may be an interesting proposition to compare these concerts to the PASS concerts.

The next concert in the series will include a number of piano sonatas by the composer George Walker on Friday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. This composer is best known for an orchestral piece called "Lilacs," which won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1996. The snippets of the piano sonatas I listened to are distinctly modern and sometimes sound harsh or dissonant, but the merit in them seems to lie in their adept handling of very different kinds of thematic material simultaneously. The pianist who will play the sonatas is Redi Llupa, an experienced pianist who graduated from the Boston Conservatory and has played at Carnegie Hall. After seeing a few videos of his playing that he has graciously posted on YouTube under his name, I have confidence that this concert will be well worth attending.

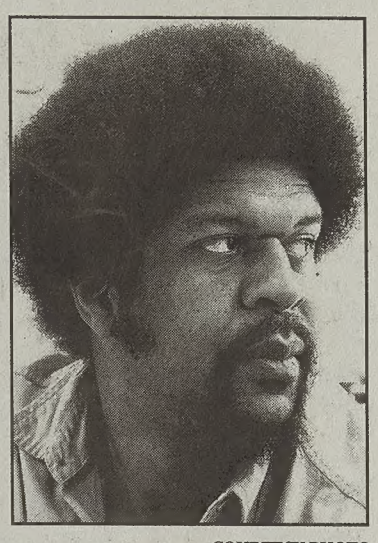
The next concert has not posted its exact program yet, but it will be curated by composer Carlos Simon, a native of Atlanta who has worked with the Sundance Institute. It will occur in the Mahaney Center for the Arts on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. I look forward to this concert because this composer has extensive experience with film music composition; such a background lends itself well to finding many different kinds of music and putting them together into a compelling whole; or, in other words, curation.

The fourth concert of the series will include a performance by Gary Levinson and Asiya Korepanova on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. This concert will include the premiere of Ms. Korepanova's piece "Poem" for saxophone and piano, as well as Professor Taylor's piece "Meet at the Horizon" for violin and double bass. Rounding out the program are Prokofiev's first piano sonata and Strauss' sonata for violin and piano in E-flat. The following day, Mr. Levinson will offer a masterclass at 3 p.m. in collaboration with the Middlebury Community Music Center and Vermont Youth Orchestra.

The next concert, Music Without Borders, curated by composer Marcos Balter, will take place on April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Middlebury. According to Balter's website, his works have received such praise as, "Balter has a wicked sense of humor and a fiercely imaginative palette of instrumental and vocal sounds that is rare in today's dour post-classical new music." This concert promises interesting works because many of his previous works have used unusual ensembles, such as alto flute and cello for "delete/control/option" or clarinet and violin for "A vis".

The last concert of the series, American Mestiza, will play the music of Gabriela Lena Frank, a composer whose works reflect her deep knowledge and engagement with Latin American folklore and music. This concert will take place in Middlebury on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the arts center.

As you can see from the long list of concerts, this series represents the results of many artists in areas that badly need more representation, especially in classical music. I was happy to hear that this concert series was occurring, and I am even more happy to cover it. This series will hopefully set new expectations for classical music concerts in our region and promote the exploration of new music.



COURTESY PHOTO
Visiting Assistant Professor Matthew Evan Taylor, a performer and composer, organized the "New Centuries | New Voices" concert series.

Reel Critic: 'Children of Men'

By ELSA KORPI
Staff Writer

What makes you get up in the morning when you know the end is near?

This very question looms over Alfonso Cuarón's 2006 film "Children of Men," which is based on the eponymous novel by P.D. James. Set in 2027 Britain, Theo Faron (Clive Owen) must escort Kee (Clare-Hope Ashitey), a young pregnant woman, out of a country where no babies have been born for decades. The film was screened as part of the Hirschfield International Series on Jan. 12.

Perhaps the most immediately intriguing thing about "Children of Men" is the core of its conflict: instead of a nuclear war, an aggressive infectious disease, or another overworked dystopian trope, the film centers around a global pandemic of female infertility. Kee's pregnant body is treated with exaggerated care and protection that becomes the single deciding factor in each choice made. Cuarón dedicates an entire scene to a room full of activists arguing over the best place to take her, which Luke (Chiwetel Ejiofor) concludes with a simple sentence: "This is your choice." Now, pregnancy truly is the "miracle of life" and the female body its bearer.

These political undertones are in part what allows "Children of Men" to preserve its poignancy even 13 years after its release. Major news themes of the past years are echoed in a manner that is almost frightening. Tight-lipped Britain shows a preoccupation with illegal immigrants who are held in cages by Homeland Security. Foreigners face deportation and are yelled down by officers on their way to the refugee center. Street scenes appear as though they are directly modelled after news images of Syria, Yemen or Iraq.

Not only do these images feel eerily familiar, they are impeccably captured. Emmanuel Lubezki's Academy Award-winning cinematography is dynamic, fluid and a pleasure to watch. Unlike typical, tightly-cut action scenes, scenes appear as though they were filmed in one drawn out shot. When the group is ambushed during their car ride, the camera circles around the inside of the car to show actions in real time. The result is a frightening series of obscure images that wholly absorbs its audience. Without noticing, you have held your breath for the entire duration of a scene.

"Children of Men" is able to create this grip while holding the audience at an arm's length. As the camera stays in Theo's immediate proximity for most of the film, Lubezki shows scenes as they occur behind a window or in the far end of a room. Without the presence of the camera in the space, dialogue begins to appear completely candid, actions uncensored. Somewhat ironically, it is this physical distance that makes the film so thrilling: someone could turn their head and notice us at any moment. We are made to feel like eavesdroppers, a part of the mission.

COURTESY PHOTO
"Children of Men" (2006) tells the story of a pregnant woman in a world where no babies have been born for 18 years.

This level of sophistication extends to the film's motifs. As Kee gives birth in a dreary, dim room and the fire momentarily silences as she walks through the hallways of a building under attack with her newborn daughter, it is difficult to think of her story as something other than a kind of secular nativity scene. Soon after they have passed the dismayed soldiers, some of whom drop to their knees and draw a cross on their chest, explosions reclaim the soundscape.

"I thought that was so clever because that's us," screenwriter Hawk Ostyn reflected during the Q&A that followed the screening. "Things come into our lives and they move us for a little bit and then it's [back] to the old." In this regard, "Children of Men" has something to say about humanity's tendency to stand in its own way. Rather than taking a hint and altering our actions, an almost chronic lack of self-reflection appears to drive us to the same disastrous mistakes time and time again.

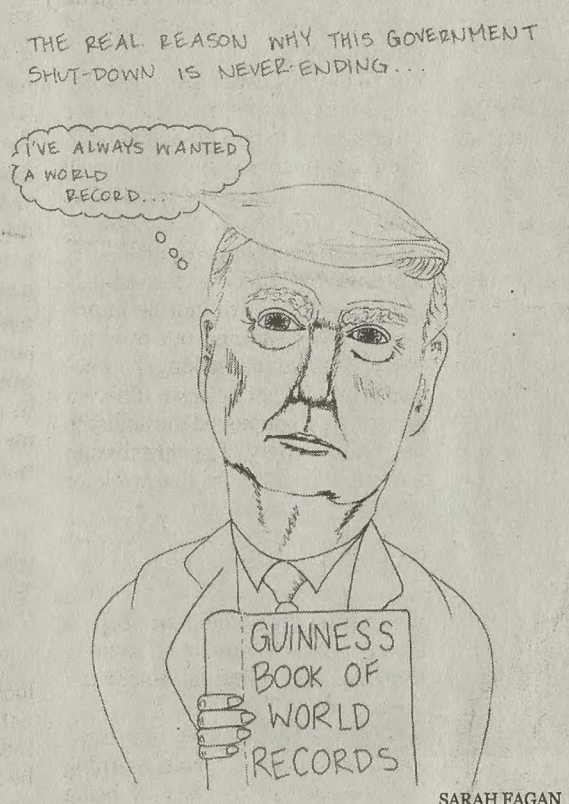
The film relies heavily on such technical subtleties — at times even too much. As a protagonist, Theo is opaque and relatively static. Despite occasionally raising his voice and breaking down in tears without prior warning, his demeanor is scornful and at times tiring to follow. Ashitey's performance as Kee is by far the most interesting that the film has to offer, yet even her character feels underdeveloped as the script clings to her as a source of comic relief. For a film that discusses the core of our existence, the portrayal of raw humility in "Children of Men" leaves room for improvement.

Ostyn's commentary offered some insight as to why this may be.

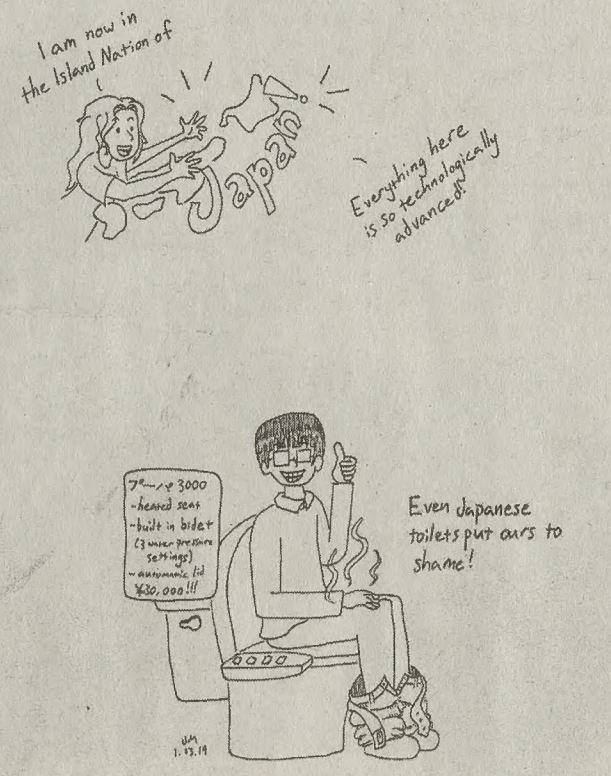
"What's it like to get up when you know that there is really no future, how do you bother to do anything?" he contemplated as he described what initially drew him to the story. Perhaps the hopelessness of the situation has simply sunken into these characters, showing them as products of their environment. Yet while this may account for Theo's staleness, many questions about characterization remain unanswered.

Given its sheer quality of craftsmanship, it would be difficult to argue that "Children of Men" is not a film worth watching. Any issue with character development feels futile compared to the thrill that the film's visual and philosophical elements spark. "Children of Men" has earned its right to be screened in 2019.

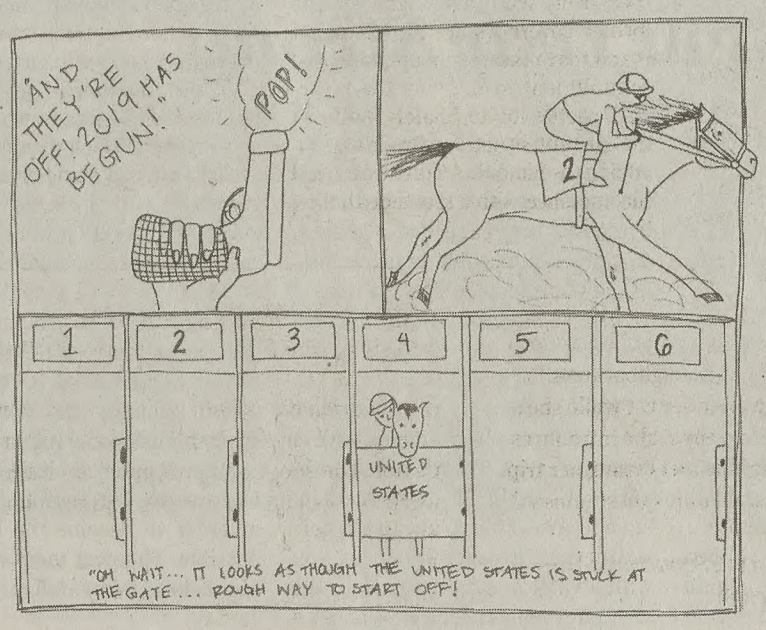
PIA CONTRERAS


THE REAL REASON WHY THIS GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN IS NEVER-ENDING...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A WORLD RECORD...
GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

SARAH FAGAN


I am now in the Island Nation of
Japan
Everything here is so technologically advanced!
Even Japanese toilets put ours to shame!

JENNY MOSS



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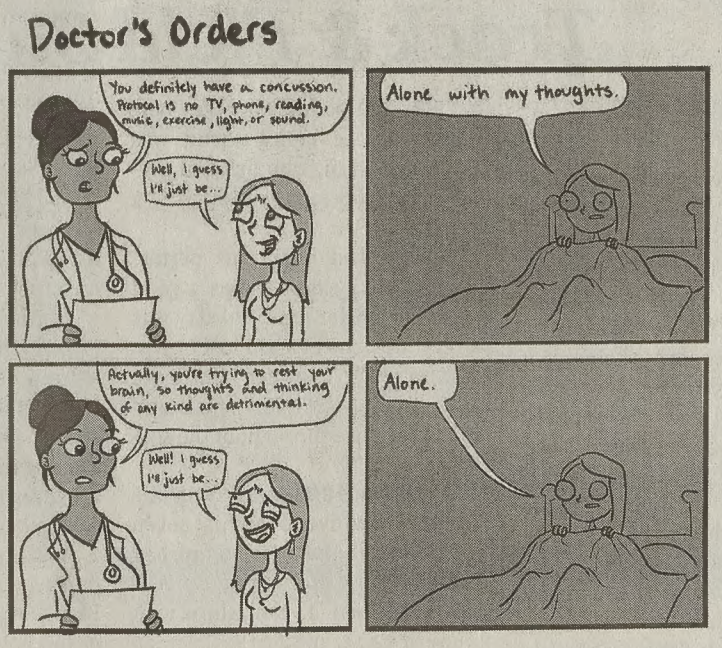

Doctor's Orders
You definitely have a concussion. Protocol is no TV, phone, reading, music, exercise, light, or sound.
Well, I guess I'm just be...
Alone with my thoughts.
Actually, you're trying to rest your brain, so thoughts and thinking of any kind are detrimental.
Well! I guess I'm just be...
Alone.

KAITLYND COLLINS

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Joey Leighton '20 speeds past a Keene State defender.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Jack Farrell '21 passess the ball to a fellow Panther.

Men's Basketball Splits Weekend

By CLAIRE MESSERSMITH
Senior Writer

The men's basketball team was on the road this past weekend, competing against two NESCAC rivals on Jan. 11 and 12. Coming hot off of a 20-point win against Widener University on Tuesday, Jan. 8, Middlebury pulled off a 100-93 victory over Bates on Friday. However, the Panthers fell to Tufts by two points on Saturday, 86-84; with seven seconds remaining in Cousens Gym, the Jumbos hit a 15-foot baseline jump shot to lift Tufts two points past the Panthers.

Matt Folger '20 commented on Middlebury's loss, saying, "Certainly after this weekend we were disappointed to lose another close NESCAC game because there are only 10, so one loss can be the difference between hosting a first-round conference tournament game and not even making the tournament. However, there are a ton of good teams in our conference so while a 2-2 record in NESCAC play isn't what we wanted coming out of the weekend, we are still in a position to make the post-season tournament and are still confident we can beat any team on our schedule."

Both Friday and Saturday's games were back-and-forth, and despite losing, Middlebury outrebounded the Jumbos 55-40 on Saturday afternoon. Folger himself had 16 points and 13 boards this weekend. "We moved and shared the ball well against both teams this past weekend, which is when we are most successful as a team. The energy and effort was also there, and out-rebounding Tufts on Saturday gave us an opportunity to [keep us in the game] despite our poor shooting percentage," Folger said.

The Panthers also had many notable accomplishments deep in the roster this past weekend. Jack Farrell '21 scored 20 points on Friday night against Bates and had a career high of eight assists. Fresh off the start, Middlebury's Griffin Kornaker '22 made an early three-pointer, leading the game 10-7 at the 15:27 mark.

When asked what the Panthers would work on in practice this week, Folger mentioned, "We're going to focus on our defensive rotations and transition defense because a few missed rotations can be the difference in close games."

The Panthers will compete on the road against at Albertus Magnus College — a team that is skilled in transition on the court — on Jan. 15, and then take on the Williams Ephs on Saturday, Jan. 19.

Men's Hockey Remains Steady, Looks to Double Header

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Senior Writer

The men's hockey team is staying competitive as they head into the brunt of their season matchups. A recent win against Plattsburgh leaves the team holding a 6-6-1 record at week seven. This fairly even distribution of wins and losses holds true regardless of game site, as the team's home records stands at 3-2-1.

Although the team has yet to secure a lasting winning record, the team's performance has improved tremendously in comparison to the past few years. Last year's squad acquired only four wins overall, yet finished with 17 losses and three ties. The preceding 2016-2017 scores look similar, generating a 3-19-2 record.

Captain Owen Powers '20 verbalized this. "We have already eclipsed what we were able to do last season. The team now has a winning culture where everyone knows they have to hold themselves and their teammates accountable to the standards we identified in the fall," he said.

He added, "We have made strong strides from last season and will continue to improve. Now that the team is confident in our abilities we are now learning to win and expect more out of ourselves every weekend."

The Panthers will face both Colby and Bowdoin this upcoming weekend at home on Friday, Jan. 18 and Saturday, Jan. 19, respectively.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Owen Powers '20 and Zach Shapiro '22 fight for the puck against Tufts on Dec. 1.

Men's Squash is Servin' Heat

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Alex Merrill '21 competes against Bates on Jan. 13.

By ANN MARTIN SKELLY
Staff Writer

Returning from break on Jan. 5, the 20th-ranked men's squash team defeated 21st-ranked Williams by a tight 5-4 margin. The Panthers claimed victories in the first two spots from first-year Justin Ghaeli and junior Jacob Ellen and took three more points with wins from first-year Teddy Best, sophomore Wiatt Hinton, and junior John Epley. Ghaeli clinched the match with a three-game victory at the No. 2 spot.

Coming off of that strong victory, the squad dominated their four following matches this past weekend. They eased passed Amherst on the road on January 11 with a 7-2 score. Freshman Nate Moll pulled out a tight five-game win at No. 8, and Ghaeli clinched his match with a swift three-game take down.

The team returned to Middlebury on Saturday, Jan. 12 to host Bowdoin and Colby. The Panthers did not lose a single match against either team, claiming 9-0 victories against both. Then, to round out their successful weekend, the hosts dominated Bates by an 8-1 margin. Jacob Ellen clinched the match at No. 2 with a three-game win.

Coming off of these wins, the team enters this coming weekend holding a five-match winning streak.

They will face 30th-ranked Hamilton at home on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and then travel to Cambridge, MA to play 15th-ranked Brown on Saturday.

With a 7-2 overall record, the squad pushes into the second half of the season with building momentum and optimistic eyes on the upcoming NESCAC Championships, set to be hosted at home in the Bostwick Family Squash center over the first weekend of February.

Track & Field Starts New Year Strong

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

Last Saturday marked the beginning of the indoor track and field season for the Panthers who had participated in the Middlebury Winter Classic. The day was filled with many notable performances.

"The first meet always helps all of our different event groups to come together as a big team and get back into the swing of competition," said Lucy Lang '19. "We are so lucky that we got to have the meet at home with our track alumni."

The men's team finished in second place out of a total of five teams. While the Panthers garnered 137.5 points, Plymouth State finished in first with 170 points. One key performer for the men's squad was Conor Banky '19, who finished second in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.29.

When asked about his performance, Banky said, "It was a good starting point for me. Saturday was my first track meet and I lost by .01. Not the result I wanted, but I am happy to know where I stand and plan to improve throughout the season."

In the men's 200-meter dash, the Panthers took five of the first seven spots. Jimmy Martinez '19 finished in first with a time of 22.27, William Robertson '21 took third with a time of 23.14, and Arden Coleman '20 came in fourth with a time of 23.47. The other top finishers were Matthew Durst '21 in the fifth, and Josh Howard '19 in seventh. Max Memeger '21 took first place in the high jump event with a jump of 1.83 meters.

Minhaj Rahman '19 took first place in the 35 lb. weight throw with a throw of 18.17 meters. This throw also happened to break the current school record, which was set by Rahman just last year. "Truly this is a highlight of my career that I will remember forever," Rahman said.

With 123.5 points, the women finished in second place behind Plattsburgh State which had a score of 160 points. There were many notable contributors for the team. In the 400-meter dash, Julia Munz '22 and Lang came in second and third place, respectively. Munz had a time of 1:01.67 and Lang had a time of 1:01.68. Emma Hills '22 placed first in the 500-meter run with a time of 1:21.32, while Emily Bulczynski '22 placed first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:24.21.

The 4x400 relay team was able to get a first place victory with a time of 4:14.97. This team was composed of Lang, Hills, Julia McClain '22 and Ava O'Mara '21. In the pole vault event, Kreager Taber '19 won with a vault of 3.35 meters. In the shot put event, Helene Rowland '20 was able to place first with a throw of 11.92 meters.

"We are still very early in the season and just came off of the winter break, so I think that our early successes are very promising for the rest of our season," said Lang.

"Right now a lot of the team is making sure we ease ourselves back into the season to make sure we are setting ourselves up for the rest of J-term properly and not having a shaky foundation," Rahman said.

The Panthers clearly look to improve as the season progresses in order to become the best team possible. The next meet will be the Middlebury Winterfell on Saturday, Jan. 19.

Swimming and Diving Defeats Colby, Falls to Bates

By ANNA WOOD
Staff Writer

The swim and dive teams began their second semester with a home meet against Colby on Saturday, Jan. 12. The women conquered Colby with a 204-95 score, while the men were defeated 167-131. The Panthers hosted Bates the following day, falling 163.5-130.5 on the women's side and 192-102 on the men's side.

The women's team won 14 out of the 16 events against the Colby Mules. The 200-yard medley relay team consisting of Audrey Hsi '22, Erin Kelly '21, Maddie McKean '22 and Frances VanderMeer '20 opened the meet with a win, finishing with a time of 1:50.8. Hsi continued her winning streak with individual victories in the 100 butterfly (59.81), 100 backstroke (1:01.08) and the 100 individual medley (1:02.55).

Alongside Hsi, Kristin Karpowicz '19, Hannah Wander '22 and VanderMeer each secured two first place finishes. Karpowicz swam the 1,000-yard freestyle in 10:49.15 and then went 55.87 in the 100 free. Wander claimed the title in both the 50 breaststroke (32.44) and 100 breaststroke (1:10.35), while VanderMeer won the 50 back (27.68) and the 50 fly (26.14). Courtney Gantt triumphed in the 50 free (25.36), then joined McKean, Kelly and VanderMeer to win the 200-yard free relay in 1:40.16. Divers Kacey Hertan '20 and Mary Cate Carroll '21 captured wins in the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events, respectively, with Hertan scoring 228.45 and Carroll scoring 219.98 points.

The men's team also saw success in the lanes and on the boards. The 200-yard medley relay team of Brendan Leech '19, Cody Kim '22, Will Pannos '20 and Corey Jalbert '21 out-touched Colby by 0.01 seconds, winning with a time of 1:37.64. The 200-yard freestyle relay of Jalbert, Pannos, Jake Gaughan '22 and Leech ended the day with a first place finish (1:27.99).

Individually, Pannos triumphed in the 100 butterfly (53.46), while Mike Chirico '20 won the 1-meter (243.40 points) and the 3-meter diving events (242.18 points). Runner-up finishes included Charles Quinn '20 in the 50 backstroke (25.46) and 100 individual medley (54.95), as well as Kim in the 50 breaststroke (27.43) and 100 breaststroke (1:00.28).

The Panthers fared another day of competition against Bates. Although the 25th-ranked Bobcats attained an overall win, the swim and dive teams earned several individual victories.

VanderMeer and Hsi again dominated their events, claiming the 50 free (24.81) and 400 individual medley (4:43.13), respectively. Alongside VanderMeer and Hsi, Kelly and McKean won the 200-yard medley relay, stopping the clock in 1:50.57. Riggins went the distance by winning the 1,650 free in 18:14.28. Karpowicz conquered the 500 free in 5:17.96. Hertan again scored her second 1 meter event title of the weekend, tallying 215.4 points. Olivia Rieur '22 took the 3-meter title with 235.28 points.

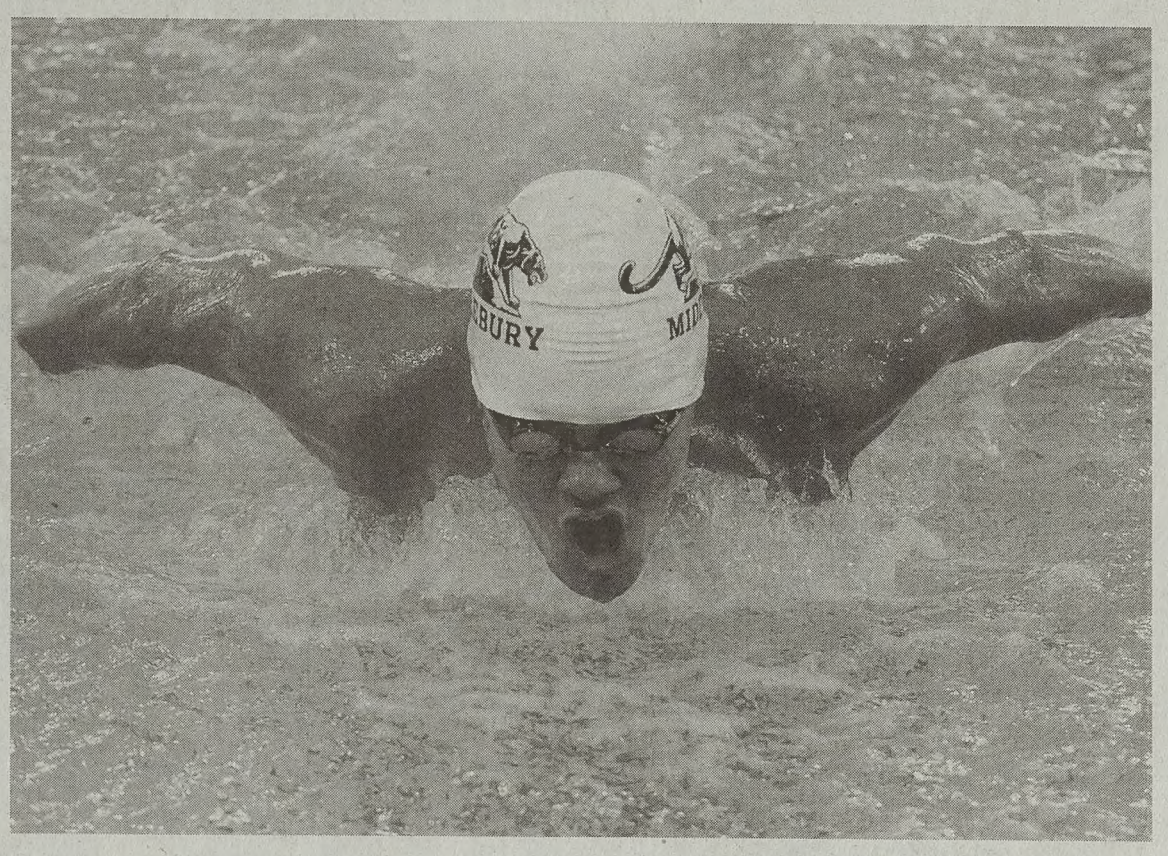
The Panthers were bolstered by numerous second place finishes, including Kelly in the 100 breastroke (1:09.87) and the 200 breastroke (2:33.11). VanderMeer was runner-up in the 100 free (54.73), then ended the day by placing second in the 200-yard free relay with McKean, Kelly and Gantt (1:39.66).

On the men's side, Aska Matsuda '22 won the distance events, finishing in 16.56.20 for the 1,650 free and 4:54.13 in the 500 free. Chirico again achieved titles on both the 1-meter (255.83 points) and 3-meter boards (260.70 points).

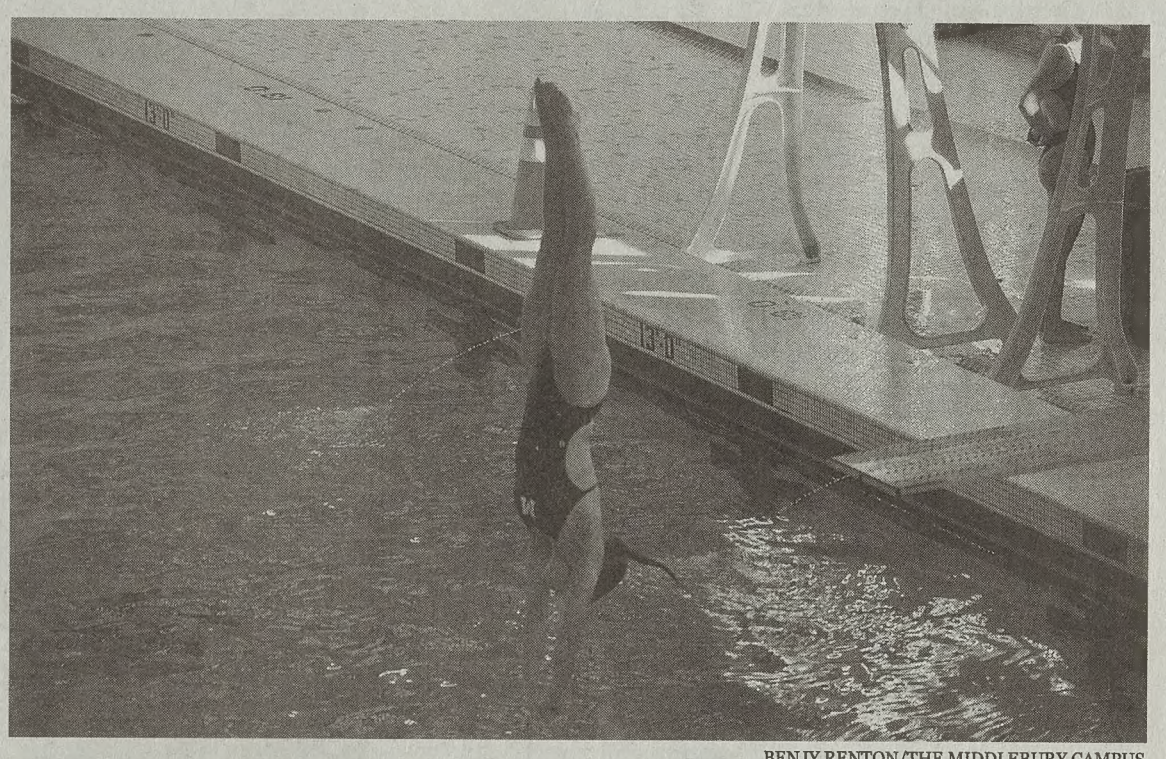
Four swimmers claimed second in their events: Leech in the 100 backstroke (53.64), Zack Einhorn '21 in the 200 butterfly (2:01.30), Gaughan in the 50 free (22.33), and Kevin Santoro '21 in the 200 back (2:00.80).

Both relay teams secured runner-up finishes, including the 200 -yard medley relay team of Leech, Kim, Pannos and Jalbert (1:37.79), and the 200-yard free relay team of Gaughan, Jalbert, Pannos and Leech (1:28.12).

The Panthers head to Union this Saturday, Jan.19, where they hope to see major team success.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Nick Handali '20 sprints to the finish in the 100-yard butterfly during the meet against Bates on Jan. 13.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Nina Cruz '21 demonstrates excellent form as she dives headfirst into the water.

Alpine Ski Kicks Off Season at St. Lawrence Carnival

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Staff Writer

The men's and women's alpine ski teams took to the slopes at Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid, New York this past weekend to compete in their opening weekend of races at the St. Lawrence Carnival. It was a strong showing overall from the Panthers, one that included career-best results and "flashes of brilliance" across the board, according to Erik Arvidsson '21.

Slalom races took place on Friday, while giant slalom (GS) races were moved to Saturday due to strong wind gusts and cold temperatures. On the men's side of the slalom event, Arvidsson came out firing to lead the Panthers with a time of 1:32.41, securing a third-place finish overall. Max Stamler '19 was Middlebury's second racer to complete the course, skiing a career-best finish of 12th overall with a time of 1:36.43. The final scorer for the men's team, Pate Campbell '20, whose two-run time of 1:47.61 was affected by hikers, clinched the 32nd spot. Tim Gavett '22 started out strong, holding the fifth spot after his first run, but was forced to hike on his second trip down the mountain, ultimately placing 43rd.

"We had some unfortunate DNF's (Did Not Finish), which happens in ski racing. With more reps and improved consistency, the sky is the limit for this team," Arvidsson said, reflecting on the team's room for improvement following the weekend's performances. Despite only a few skiers completing clean runs, Arvidsson maintains that the men's and women's teams' potential coming into the season is enormous. "I am really happy with how the whole team started the carnival season. We are way ahead of where we were this time last season," he said.

This potential made itself particularly evident on the women's side, with first-year Samantha McClellan's first collegiate race culminating in a 19th place finish after her run time of 1:40.84. Caroline Bartlett '19 was Middlebury's top finisher in the Slalom event, ending her two runs with a time of 1:38.34 and earning eighth place overall. Finishing second for the Panthers was Madison Lord '21, whose 1:40.08 time earned her a career best 15th place overall.

Bartlett and Arvidsson continued to dominate Middlebury's scoreboard in the giant slalom event as well. Bartlett came in with a two-run time of 2:12.20 to lead the women's team and place fourth overall, and Arvidsson finished second for Middlebury, coming in ninth place overall in 2:13.27. Senior Lexi Calcagni finished second for the Panthers in 2:22.16 in the giant slalom to put her in 12th place, and Lord, the women's third scorer, finished 16th in 2:23.37. In the men's giant slalom, Gavett led the Panthers with a time of 2:11.90 to secure the fourth spot, and earning a top-20 finish in 2:14.90 was Stamler, the men's final scorer.

With UVM and Dartmouth once again being forces to reckon with this season, the team will focus its efforts this week on "building consistency so we can bring our speed in training into races," Bartlett said. Both the Alpine and Nordic teams will race again this weekend at the University of New Hampshire Carnival.

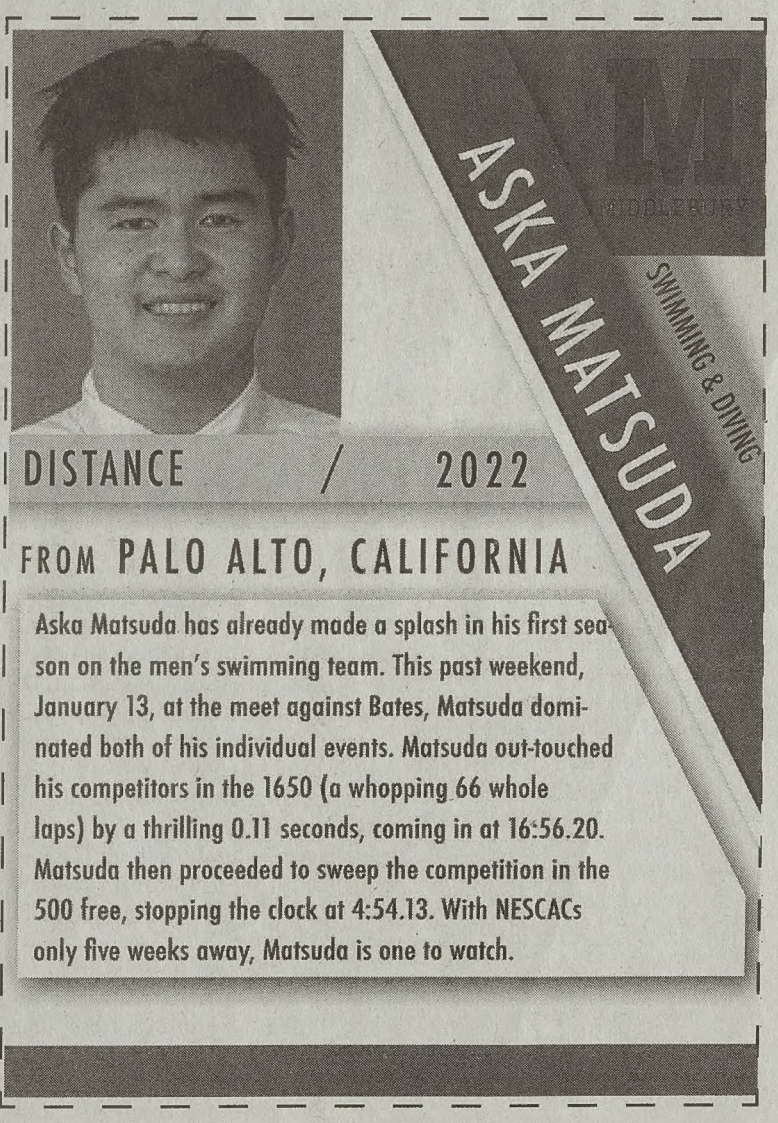
Photos of the Week

SWIMMING AND DIVING HOSTS GREEN DOT MEET

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The swimming and diving teams hosted their annual Green Dot meet against Colby on Jan. 13. Partnering with Middlebury's Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy, the team showed their support in preventing instances of power-based personal violence on campus. Coordinators and interns Noreen Pecsok, Kahari Blue '19, Barbara McCall and Isabel Chandler '21, distributed green snacks and Green Dot items at the meet, while swimmers donned Green Dot caps.

In the Cards

By ERIN KELLY
Sports Editor


ASKA MATSUDA
SWIMMING & DIVING
DISTANCE / 2022
FROM PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
Aska Matsuda has already made a splash in his first season on the men's swimming team. This past weekend, January 13, at the meet against Bates, Matsuda dominated both of his individual events. Matsuda out-touched his competitors in the 1650 (a whopping 66 whole laps) by a thrilling 0.11 seconds, coming in at 16:56.20. Matsuda then proceeded to sweep the competition in the 500 free, stopping the clock at 4:54.13. With NESCACs only five weeks away, Matsuda is one to watch.

Women's Hockey: Power Moves Only

MIDDLEBURY'S POWER PLAY PROVES CRUCIAL IN VICTORIES

By BRIANNA LIPP
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team beat the Utica College Pioneers 4-3 on Saturday, Dec. 8 before taking off for winter break. Goals by Katie Hargrave '22, Madie Leidt '21, and Katherine Jackson '19 lifted the Panthers to a 3-0 lead in the first period. Utica's Lexi Stanisewski got the Pioneers on the board less than a minute later, and the period would end 3-1. Middlebury senior Katarina Shuchuk slipped a shot through Utica goalie Bria Reilly's five-hole midway through the second period to make it 4-1, but the Pioneers came back to score on the power play with 2:16 left in the period. Utica's Maddie Paydos would score again in the third period to make it 4-3, but the Panthers defense locked down and secured the win.

Middlebury returned from winter break with a double header at home against Amherst on Jan. 4 and 5. The Mammoths opened scoring 16:21 into the first period on a power play goal from Jocelyn Hunyadi after a few early chances. Just over a minute into the second period, Middlebury scored a power play goal of their own as Hargrave converted a rebound from junior Anna Zumwinkle's shot. The third period was carried by Middlebury, who held a 14-4 shots advantage. Despite a few good chances for the Panthers, none

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Captain Jenna Marotta '19 absorbs a slash from a UMass Boston skater.

were converted, and the game went to overtime. Both sides had one significant chance each, but neither scored, ending the game in a 1-1 tie.

The second game against Amherst held a better result for Middlebury as a hat-trick by Leidt lifted the Panthers into a 3-0 shutout over the Mammoths. Sophomore goalie Anna Goldstein stood strong against Amherst's forward push, stopping all 24 shots she faced for her second shutout of the season.

The Panthers faced SUNY Potsdam's Bears on the road on Jan. 8. The scoreless first period had a shot advantage to the visiting team (11-6), who posted five of those on the only power play chance of the period. The scoring started early in the second period as sophomore Ellie Barney sent her own rebound into the net with just 1:33 off the clock. In the third period, Middlebury's Hargrave scored with just under seven minutes left, leading to a 2-1 win.

Last weekend had Middlebury adding two more wins to their record as they beat Endicott and UMass Boston on Jan. 11 and 12, respectively. Junior goalie Lin Han earned her second shutout of the season as the Panthers beat Endicott 3-0 off goals in each of the three periods. First-year Eva Hendrikson opened scoring in the first on a power play goal. In the second period, Leidt and Sidney Portner '20 rang shots off the post before first year Jenna Letterie doubled the lead with just over a minute left. Letterie added an empty net goal at the end of the third to seal the Panthers victory.

Saturday's contest against UMass Boston had Middlebury continue an eight game unbeaten streak and improve to 8-1-3 on the season as they beat the Beacons 4-0. Special teams won the day as three power play goals and three successful penalty kills helped the Panthers to the top. Morgan Griffin '21 scored her first goal as a Panther and Hendrikson, Shuchuk, and Zumwinkle all scored power play goals. Middlebury also dominated shots 49-8 as Goldstein and first-year goalie Caroline Silk shared the shutout.

Seventh-ranked Middlebury hopes to continue their unbeaten streak with a double header against Bowdoin next weekend. Bowdoin has yet to win a game in NESCAC play this season.

Despite Losses, Women's Basketball Holds Impressive Record

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's basketball team has improved to a 13-2 record, losing only one of those battles to conference competition. Though both losses have come in recent games, the overall successful start to the season will propel the Panthers into championship season.

Forward Vanessa Young '20 acknowledges that the team has had great success so far, but were let down by the two losses. Young sees these losses as stepping stones going further into the season: "We've definitely had a really successful season so far. Although we dropped two games — Westfield St. and Tufts — we're using those games as good learning experiences to continue to improve upon all the hard work we've done."

It will take a lot of perseverance to move past the loss to fellow conference-rival Tufts. Last year, Middlebury landed fourth in the NESCAC rankings, behind Amherst, Bowdoin and Tufts. All three powerhouses made it into the NCAA tournament — something the Panthers hope to achieve this year.

Accomplishing that goal entails strong intra-conference games. The Panthers know they must compete well against other NESCAC teams, especially Bowdoin and Amherst. Learning from the loss to Tufts, as well as Westfield State, is the next step in ensuring a successful season.

With a deep bench, talented offense, and skilled defense, Young sees potential in her squad, as do the rest of her teammates.

"We've seen that our defense wins us games, so we are definitely going to work harder to lock that down, especially 1 v 1 defense, in order to finish out our season strong," Young said. "We know that we're capable of achieving a lot this year, and are looking forward to getting it done!"

Their impressive record should not be overlooked. Thirteen wins to a minimal two losses is a great start to head into the later parts of the season. Additionally, the squad beat three other NESCAC teams: Connecticut College (49-44), Wesleyan (69-57) and Bates (70-58).

The next big game will be against Williams this Saturday, which will be a testament to the team's hard work and further NESCAC play. Starting in February, the Panthers will face both Bowdoin and Amherst. This gives Middlebury plenty of time to smooth out their play and finish the regular season with strength.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
At 11.3 PPG, Colleen Cavaney '19 is second on the team in terms of points per game.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Alana Kornaker '22 attacks the Skidmore perimeter.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Alex Huffman '19 advances the ball up the court.

Women's Squash Stomps NESCAC Foes

By EMILY BIAN
Senior Writer

After returning from nearly a month long break, the women's squash team is back in full swinging with five wins under their belt. First up in their busy schedule, the 15th-ranked Panthers battled 13th-ranked Williams at home, winning 6-3. The team went on to defeat Amherst (7-2), Bowdoin (8-0), Colby (9-0) and Bates (7-2), adding on to a great start to second semester. With such a strong showing against top opponents, the women's squash team has a winning streak of five and an overall score of 7-1.

The team is scheduled to compete against 10 different schools before the NESCAC tournament beginning in February. Every opponent will serve as a chance to polish up the Panther's game, in which they hope to bring back a NESCAC Championship and improve their current 15th national ranking. They have been training hard, both physically and mentally, hoping to pull some upsets and fare better than last year at the CSA Team Championships. With clear team goals in mind, the Panthers are looking forward to a busy J-term.

"Last year we finished number 15 in the country and this year we are trying to improve from that ranking. Specifically, we are aiming to beat Williams, GW and Brown who are ranked a couple of spots above us. Additionally, it is important for us to have a very tight knit team where everyone feels included, respected and valued. Finally, we have a goal of winning the team sportsmanship award that is given to one team in college squash after every season," Alexa Comai '19 said when asked about collective team goals.

The Panthers will return to action as they compete against Hamilton on Thursday, Jan.17 at 5:30 p.m. in a pivotal home game. Be sure to come out and show your Panther pride! Rounding out J-term, the team hits the road as they travel to contest against Brown, Dickinson, Virginia and Franklin & Marshall.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Anne Glassie '20 looks to swat the ball against the Colby Mules.